

THE JOURNAL

Friday, February 10, 2006

ElCerritoJournal.com • 50 cents (tax included)

Sports Pilots fall to third place in BSAL boys soccer standings [C1]

Arts & Leisure Characters shine in production of 'Cuckoo's Nest' [C12]

Lighting and landscape ballot to arrive in mail by March 1

El Cerrito City Council
also appropriates money
for new city hall

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Ballots asking El Cerrito property owners to approve an increase in the amount they pay for annual lighting and landscaping maintenance will be delivered to mailboxes by March 1. For residential property owners, the new assessment would increase by \$43 or \$31.50, depending on whether the lot size is greater or less than 5,000 square feet. Commercial property owners will be asked to pay an

increase based on their lot size.

The City Council unanimously agreed to place the assessment on the ballot at a recent meeting following another unanimous vote to appropriate \$399,000 from the general fund toward building a new city hall.

The city envisions construction on a new facility at San Pablo and Manila avenues beginning in November.

"The city does have many priorities; this certainly addresses one of them," said City Councilman Bill Jones. "The others can and will be addressed in due time."

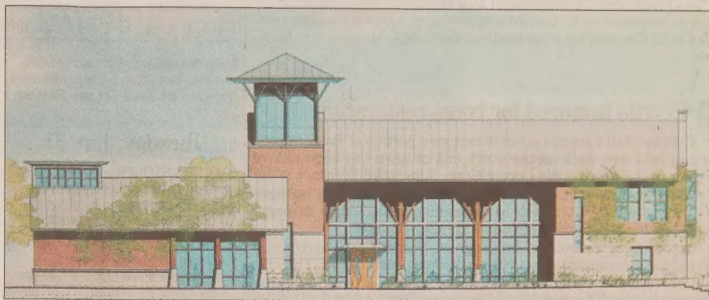
Resident Brit Johnson, husband of former Councilwoman Gina Brusatori, said the city

needed a comprehensive plan for improving its infrastructure, particularly street maintenance.

However, Johnson and others, including former El Cerrito Councilmen Mark Friedman and Howard Abelson and chamber of commerce board president Tracy Giles agreed the city was long overdue for a new civic center.

Because of concerns over the facility's vulnerability in an earthquake, the city in 1987 tore down its former city hall — a 57-year-old auto repair garage — and replaced it with a group of portable trailers at San Pablo and Manila avenues.

See CITY HALL, Page A11



AN ARTIST'S RENDITION of the proposed El Cerrito City Hall. The former City Hall was a 57-year-old auto repair garage that was torn down in 1987 because of concerns over its vulnerability to earthquakes.

Plan would create habitat for owls

Concerns include how
proposal for the
Albany Plateau would
impact the recreational
component of the area

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The Albany Plateau is a flat expanse of land that juts out along the shoreline on the west side of Interstate 80. It's covered with manicured green grass, a dirt path and occasional weed patches and bushes. Chunks of concrete and rebar are testimony when the area was a dumping ground for building materials.

On one side, the land provides a view of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay and the San Francisco skyline. On the other, a hum of freeway traffic and a view of the East Bay hills.

There's quite a lot of dog walkers and people with dogs that come here," said Michelle Robinson, taking a break from walking two French bulldogs on an unusually warm day. "It's an unofficial dog park."

A coalition of environmental groups, regional agencies and the state parks department are working on the ball fields project. Construction on some of the ball fields is expected to begin this summer.

During a review of the environmental effects of the fields on the area, Berkeley determined that they would have a "significant impact" on a burrowing owl that had been seen over several winters in a southern corner of the land.

California environmental law required a mitigation for the impact on the owl, and it was decided that new habitat would be created, Berkeley parks department senior management analyst Roger Miller said.

"All the partners in the Gilman project agree that the habitat at Albany is a great idea," Miller said. "That includes the environmental groups, the sports groups, and the five cities (working on this project) — Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond and



ALBANY PLATEAU near Golden Gate Fields is a popular place for people to walk their dogs. Environmental groups and governmental agencies are floating a proposal that would fence off part of the plateau for a burrowing owl habitat.

Emeryville — plus the East Bay parks district and the state parks department are working on the ball fields project. Construction on some of the ball fields is expected to begin this summer.

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Making room for burrowing owls

A number of agencies, environmental groups and a ball fields user group is looking to fence off 10 acres of the Albany plateau for burrowing owl habitat.



Length:
9.5 inches
Wingspan:
21 inches
Burrowing owl
(Athene cucularia)

CHUCK TODD/STAFF

BURROWING OWL FACTS:

They're found in the western United States and Florida.

They're between 9 and 11 inches long with a wingspan of 20 to 24 inches.

They eat mostly insects and rodents and occasionally other small birds, and hunt mostly at night.

They utter a high mournful cry: "Coo-coo-roo" or "co-hoo" like a dove or roadrunner but higher pitch.

They bob up and down on long legs and like flat fields with short grassy vegetation.

They're a California species of special concern and enjoyed by bird watchers.

"It's very popular bird," Albany biologist Steve Granholm said.

Source: Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, staff research

Racetrack adopts aggressive approach

Track ups the ante for stakes races, trying to create signature events

By Jay Heater
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — If horse racing in Northern California indeed has gotten drab, Golden Gate Fields has taken steps to change that atmosphere as its spring meeting began this week.

Racing Secretary Sean Greely, who took over those duties last year with hopes of creating some signature events, has pumped the San Francisco Mile's purse up to \$400,000.

The San Francisco Mile, which was inaugurated in 1948 at Golden Gate Fields, had been run at Bay Meadows from 2001-05, but now returns to its original home. It carried a \$150,000 purse last year.

This year's San Francisco Mile will be run April 29, and its purse is equal to the largest ever offered in Northern California. The Golden Gate Handicap had a \$400,000 purse from 1990-92.

See TRACK, Page A11

Memorial next week for slain couple

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Memorial services for El Cerrito residents Paul and Julie Rogers will be held at 1 p.m. next Friday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at 1 Lawson Road in Kensington.

The couple were killed following an assault in a home they were renting early last Tuesday morning. In an interview with the Contra Costa Times last week, Edward Wycoff, Julie Rogers' brother, confessed to the killings, saying he wanted raise their three children.

"It seemed like he was a very, very screwed-up guy," Ross Meador, Paul Rogers' law partner, said.

The Contra Costa District Attorney has charged Wycoff with murder with a special circumstance of multiple murders, making him eligible for the death penalty. Wycoff's next court appearance is scheduled Thursday.

See ROGERS, Page A11

Online guestbook offers comfort to Rogers family

An online guestbook was set up on ContraCostaTimes.com last week to allow readers to share their thoughts about Paul and Julie Rogers, who were killed in their El Cerrito home. Here are excerpts:

Words, no words can ease your pain, but know that the kindness of your parents lives far outweigh their deaths. When times get tough your grief is particularly hard, surround yourself with memories of their awesome love

and pride in you.

— Kay, Jeff, Sam & Harry Rubin (Orinda)

We love your family very much and have no words to express our deep sadness at this time. There are so many happy memories with your parents and all of you. How many beautiful nature walks we had together and celebrations. ... We'll have to rely on those times which are now, all the more precious and will help carry us all through the loss. We are always here for you

in friendship and prayer.

All our love,
— Joann, Steve and Isaiah Allekotte (Albany)

Dear Eric, Alex and Laurel, We have the nicest memories and thoughts of your whole family; you 3 kids and your mom and dad, from the times we were together at Windrush school. Whenever we think about the sadness that you are enduring, we pray that you will have a quick healing of grief, followed by beautiful, warm and happy

memories, as well as strength from friends and family to lean on and count on. Love, the Patpatias.

— Sunny, Diana, Priya, and Sasha Patpatia (Kensington)

Julie and Paul were such great friends. Even though years have slipped by since we last talked, I often thought of them and took comfort in the knowledge that if I needed them, they would be there. I will miss them both so much.

To the Eric, Alex, Laurel and



Julie Rogers



Paul Rogers

the Rogers family, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my heart and thoughts. Take some comfort in the knowledge that Julie and Paul were deeply loved by so many.

— Jeffery Podawiltz (Oakland)

See GUESTBOOK, Page A11

At the Library

Subjects that once seemed boring can suddenly turn exciting with age. Page A8



Martin Snapp

Is Pluto really a planet? The Chabot Space & Science Center offers clues. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany council eyes tax measures

The Albany City Council has until March 10 to submit language for two potential June tax measures that would go toward storm drain and street repair and library services.

The council held a public hearing about the ballot measures Monday night but made no decisions. It will discuss the measures again on Feb. 21 and possibly submit ballot language on March 6, said Judy Lieberman, the assistant to the city administrator.

The tax measures may include a request to fund an emergency operations center at city hall, Lieberman said.

At its Monday meeting, the council also agreed to televise the Feb. 22 planning and zoning commission meeting where developer Rick Caruso will give a presentation about his plan to build a shopping center and housing at the Golden Gate Fields parking lots.

A coalition of environmental groups will possibly present its vision for a waterfront park at the same meeting, city clerk Jackie Bucholz said. Caruso is scheduled to give presentations to the park and recreation and traffic and safety commissions Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

In closed session, the council also discussed potential legal action in response to El Cerrito's approval of a condominium complex at El Cerrito Plaza but made no decisions, Mayor Allan Maris said.

— Alan Lopez

El Cerrito honored for creek restoration

The city of El Cerrito's effort to restore a portion of Baxter Creek as part of a new park on the north end of town has been named project of the year by the Contra Costa Watershed Forum.

The award recognizes projects that restore, protect or enhance creeks and other watersheds in the county, public works manager Jerry Bradshaw said in a memo to the City Council.

According to the watershed program, Baxter Creek serves as a model for collaboration in urban watershed restoration. The city, the Watershed Project, the Friends of Baxter Creek, the Coastal Conservancy and the state Water Resources Control Board all helped with funding or advocacy.

The project, consisting of the restored creek and park on a 1.6-acre parcel at Conlon and San Pablo avenues, opened last week. A ribbon-cutting will likely be held late spring, environmental analyst Melanie Mintz said.

— Alan Lopez

Albany to broadcast El Cerrito meeting

The Albany cable channel 33 will broadcast the Jan. 30 El Cerrito City Council meeting today and next Friday at 6 p.m. At the meeting, the council voted 4-1 to deny four appeals of a planning commission decision approving a 128-unit condominium complex on the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza. The council made some revisions to the project, including the elimination of one floor from one of the buildings. Call 510-524-9283 for information.

— Alan Lopez

Grant to improve Ohlone Greenway safety

Two regional agencies have awarded El Cerrito and Albany an \$807,000 grant to improve safety along the Ohlone Greenway.

The money will go toward improved lighting along the length of the path in Albany and between Hill and Blake streets in El Cerrito. In addition, El Cerrito will install wireless surveillance cameras and new signs along the entire length of the path.

Albany will also improve several intersections.

The money was raised through bridge toll hikes following the approval of regional Measure 2 in 2004. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition awarded the grant, and El Cerrito and Albany will match a portion of it.

— Alan Lopez

Memorial service for Jean Siri is today

The East Bay Regional Park District will host a public memorial for Jean Siri at 11 a.m. today at the Miller Knox Regional Shoreline in Point Richmond on Dorman Drive. Siri was a member of the park district board from 1992 until her death in San Pablo on Jan. 20. Siri also served eight years on the El Cerrito City Council in the 1980s and early 1990s and as mayor twice.

Donations can be made in Jean Siri's name to Fresh Start, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek, 94596 or the Regional Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 21074, Crestmont Station, Oakland, 94620.

— Alan Lopez

Supervisor to hold breakfast meeting

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will hold a community breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 at the Well Grounded Tea and Coffee Bar, 6925 Stockton Ave. in El Cerrito.

Residents can sit down with Gioia and ask questions or discuss county issues. There is no agenda. Coffee will be provided, and there is no requirement to make a purchase.

Gioia is holding the breakfasts monthly at restaurants and cafes throughout West Contra Costa. Call 510-374-3231 for more information.

— Alan Lopez

Park district to appoint board member

The East Bay Regional Park District Board agreed Tuesday it will appoint a replacement for late board member Jean Siri rather than call a special election.

The seven-member park board set 4:30 p.m. Feb. 28 as the deadline to apply for the appointment. The board will make the decision at 2 p.m. March 14 at a special meeting.

Siri, 85, of El Cerrito, died last month of a heart attack.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and live within park district Ward 1, which encompasses El Cerrito, Richmond, Pinole and San Pablo in Contra Costa County, and Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and part of Oakland in Alameda County.

A special election could not be held until Nov. 7, leaving the seat vacant until then, park officials said.

— Denis Cuff

Peace groups will host seder Sunday

By Tom Lochner
STAFF WRITER

Jewish peace activists will host a seder with Middle Eastern food Sunday in celebration of Tu B'shvat, an Israeli holiday akin to Arbor Day.

The seder is sponsored by the peace groups Trees of Hope Committee, Bay Area Women in Black and Brit Tzedek v'Shalom as well as the Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center.

It will benefit Rabbis for Human Rights, a Jerusalem-based organization that promotes peace and social justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

Rabbi Arik Ascherman, the

organization's executive director, is a former Berkeley resident who was the spiritual leader of Richmond's Temple Beth Hillel in the early 1990s.

Rabbis for Human Rights has taken up the cause of Palestinians who eke out a living from olive trees that settlers and the Israeli Army have uprooted from time to time on the grounds they provide cover for rock-throwers. But some human rights activists say the trees are destroyed to demoralize Palestinians.

Ascherman and his associates have helped Palestinians harvest olives in the West Bank, with work brigades that include vol-

unteers from the United States.

The organization has also protested the demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli Army. Ascherman was charged with interfering with police in April 2003 when he tried to block bulldozers from demolishing some Palestinian homes.

A Jerusalem judge found Ascherman guilty last year and sentenced him to community service. "We were all laughing," said Linda Novick of Trees of Hope. "His whole life is community service."

Sunday's seder comes at a time of flux in the Middle East, with a leadership change in Israel and the victory of Hamas, whose charter

IF YOU GO:

- **WHAT:** Tu B'Shvat Seder benefit Rabbis for Human Rights
- **WHERE:** Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center, Walnut St., Berkeley
- **WHEN:** 5:30 p.m. Sunday
- **COST:** \$10
- **RSVP:** 415-789-7665 or treesofhope@mindspring.com

calls for the destruction of

in Palestinian elections in Novick says she is eventually recognize Hamas, now that it is elect work for peace.

"Of course we're concerned she said, "but we have hopeful and see what has

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

It was reported to police that three vehicles were taken from El Cerrito Mitsubishi sometime late January or early February.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

■ **ACURA STOLEN** — A 1992 Acura reported stolen to Richmond police was recovered the same day on the 1500 block of South 56th Street.

■ **AUTO THEFT** — Fishing equipment was taken from a Toyota Tacoma on the 700 block of Everett Street sometime between 6 p.m. on Jan. 31 and 1 p.m. the next day.

■ **AUTO THEFT** — Power tools were taken from a 1997 Ford Ranger pickup truck on the 7200 block of Mooser Lane sometime between 4:40 p.m. on Jan. 31 and 12:15 p.m. the next day. In addition, the passenger window was smashed.

■ **CAR STEREO STOLEN** — The stereo was taken from a 1997 Buick on the 2900 block of San Mateo Avenue sometime between midnight and 7 a.m. A coat hanger was used to enter the vehicle, police said.

■ **ROBBERY** — Two boys robbed a 46-year-old Oakland man on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue at 9 a.m. The boys punched and kicked the victim after approaching him from behind and asking for money. They then took his cash and ran away.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

■ **VOLKSWAGEN STOLEN** — A 1999 Volkswagen Jetta reported stolen to Berkeley police on Jan. 23 was recovered on the 600 block of Elm Street at 12:15 p.m.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — A 1998 Honda Civic was taken from a parking lot on the 9900 block of San Pablo Avenue at 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2

■ **CAR STEREO STOLEN** — A stereo was taken from a vehicle on the 5200 block of Gordon Avenue sometime between 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 and 7:15 a.m. the next day.

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 30

■ **SUBARU WAGON STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a silver 1984 Subaru wagon that was parked on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **BIKE STOLEN** — Someone stole a red and white Honda V3 bike from Albany Middle School on the 1300 block of Brighton Avenue.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — Someone broke into an unlocked blue Toyota Sienna on the 800 block of San Carlos Street and ransacked the interior.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about noon, officers arrested a 47-year-old Richmond man near Buchanan and Jackson streets for an outstanding Contra Costa County warrant in the amount of \$10,000.

■ **HONDA LOCATED** — The Contra Costa County Sheriff's office reported locating a white 1991 Honda Civic that had been reported as stolen from Albany. They did not have anyone in custody, and the owner was notified.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a white 1989 Honda Civic parked on the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **ASSAULT** — At about 5 p.m., an Albany woman reported that at around 2 p.m. her 15-year-old son and a friend were assaulted by a group of eight Latino men in their 20s, while they were on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue. They reported that four of the attackers were in a white Toyota Tercel and the other four approached from the BART tracks area. No weapons were involved, and the

police are investigating.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

■ **BUICK LOCATED** — Officers located a blue 1998 Buick near Cleveland Avenue and Interstate 80 near the railroad tracks that had been reported as stolen. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 3 a.m., officers arrested a 33-year-old San Francisco woman on Buchanan Street near I-80 for being drunk in public.

Thursday, Feb. 2

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — Someone stole a gray 1990 Honda SW parked on the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue.

■ **ACURA LOCATED** — Officers located a white 1994 Acura on the 500 block of Pierce Street that had been stolen from El Cerrito on Nov. 25. The owner was notified.

■ **TOOLS STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole contractor's tools and equipment from a home on the 500 block of Kains Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **DUI** — At about 8 p.m., officers stopped a white 1991 Ford van near Solano and Cleveland avenues for erratic driving. They arrested the driver, a 61-year-old Richmond man, for DUI.

■ **DRUG CHARGES** — Officers arrested a 41-year-old Berkeley woman near Cerrito and Buchanan streets for an outstanding warrant for multiple drug-possession charges.

■ **BURGLARY** — At about 9:30 p.m., officers arrested a 22-year-old Richmond man near Buchanan and Taylor streets for burglary.

Friday, Feb. 3

■ **AUTO THEFT** — Clothing, a sleeping bag and a stereo were taken from a 1993 Chevrolet truck on the 1700 block of Liberty Street sometime between Feb. 3 and the next day.

■ **AUTO THEFT ATTEMPT** — An attempt was made to steal a vehicle on the 1300 block of Contra Costa Drive sometime between 11 p.m. on Feb. 3 and 4:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — A 1993 Honda Accord was taken from the 3200 block of Yosemite Avenue sometime between 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 3 and 9 a.m. the next day.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — A 2005 Honda Accord was taken from the 8100 block of Terrace Drive sometime between 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 3 and 7 a.m. the next day.

■ **ROBBERY** — Cash was taken from a victim on the Ohlone Greenway south of Hill Street at 8:20 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 3

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night, someone attempted to break into a silver 2003 Toyota Tacoma parked on the 900 block of Kains Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **DUI WARRANT** — Officers stopped a silver Mercury near Gilman Street and San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 28-year-old Oakland man, for an outstanding DUI warrant in the amount of \$5,000.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — Officers arrested a 53-year-old Albany man near Buchanan and Jackson streets at about 11:30 p.m. for being drunk in public.

Saturday, Feb. 4

■ **PLATE STOLEN** — The owner of an antique store on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue reported that someone had stolen a valuable antique plate the previous day.

■ **DRUG CHARGES** — Officers arrested a 53-year-old El Cerrito woman near Central and San Joaquin avenues for drug-possession charges.

Sunday, Feb. 5

■ **HIT & RUN, DUI** — At about 3 a.m., a caller reported that the driver of a red 1997 Ford Taurus had been involved in a hit-and-run accident with a white Mercedes in San Francisco. The caller had followed the Taurus to Albany, where it was last seen at the AMPM store on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue. Officers stopped it near Solano and Tulare avenues, and arrested the driver, a 30-year-old Manteca woman, for DUI.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At

Saturday, Feb. 4

■ **ROBBERY** — A man with an automatic handgun robbed a store on the 10100 block of San Pablo Avenue at 8:51 p.m.

■ **ROBBERY** — A girl was on the ground and robbed of her pack by more than one person on Carson Boulevard at San Diego Street at 9:40 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 5

■ **NISSAN STOLEN** — A 2001 Nissan Murano was taken from the block of Barrett Avenue sometime between 1 a.m. and 2 p.m.

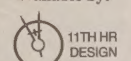
Monday, Feb. 6

■ **ASSAULT** — A woman was from her bicycle at 6:30 p.m. on Ohlone Greenway near Gladys after two boys pushed a wheel into her. The woman was unhurt.

— Krida

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Craig Lazzarotti, Hills editor

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Planetarium hosts mind-blowing events

HOW MANY planets are there in our solar system, anyway? Ten years ago, the answer was easy: nine — Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus and Pluto. Generations of schoolchildren memorized this with this mnemonic: "My eager mother just served nine pizzas."

But last summer scientists at the Chabot Space & Science Center announced the discovery of a huge, dirty snowball out there that's even bigger than Pluto.

Its official name is 2003UB113. But they got tired of saying "2003UB113" all the time, so for the time being we nicknamed it Xena. And yes, warrior princess fans, Xena has a moon called Gabrielle. That's more, there are thousands of other dirty snowballs in the same region of space. And Pluto has a lot more in common with them than it does with the other eight bodies we call planets.

It, too, is a dirty snowball, like the inner planets — Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars — which are rocky; or the outer planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune — which are giant gasbags.

The other eight planets have orbits on the same plane. But Xena's orbit — like the other dirty snowballs — is all over the place.

Which brings up the question: Should Pluto be called a planet at all? "If it had been discovered today instead of 75 years ago, the answer would be 'probably not,'" says astronomer Ryan Diduck, assistant director of programs at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland. "But it's part of our culture by now. We all grew up learning 'My very eager mother just served us nine pizzas.' What do you do if you kick off the pizza?"

Diduck says polls show children's favorite planets are Saturn and Pluto.

And most of them say Xena, especially the younger ones, because, after all, it's a warrior character.

And if we call Pluto a planet, we're not Xena and the other big dirty snowballs? (Officially, the Chabot Space & Science Center called Kuiper Belt objects named after Gerard Kuiper, an astronomer who first posited their existence, not Giants.)

Diduck says the Chabot Space & Science Center is planning a show on how you come down to Earth.

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MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

on the Pluto question — planet or not? — the solar system as we now know it has either eight planets or as many as 24.

"It's going to be really tough to think of Pluto in a new way," says Diduck. "But we could say the same about the medieval belief that the Earth is the center of the solar system. Just because we thought something for thousands of years doesn't mean we shouldn't change our minds if it's not true."

"That's the whole thing about science: It has to adapt. If it doesn't adapt, it's not science; it's religion."

But that's not the end of the story. (There never is in science.) Out there beyond the Kuiper Belt is a mysterious spherical cloud of cosmic dust that encloses the whole solar system. Astronomers call it the Oort Cloud.

And beyond that, scientists suspect there's a brown dwarf star whose gravity is the reason the Kuiper Belt objects' orbits are so weird. They call it — dum da DUM dum — Nemesis!

So why should we care? Well, I'm sure we're going to find out all kinds of useful information that will have applications in our daily lives. But that's not the reason.

The only reason for learning anything is that it's just so cool. And the stuff Diduck and his colleagues at Chabot are dealing with is way cool.

Find out for yourself. Every Friday night in the new full-dome digital planetarium, Diduck hosts a guided tour of the universe called "Immersive Space" that's more mind-blowing than anything I've ever seen. I literally sat there exclaiming, "Wow!" "Wow!" "Wow!" over and over.

The show starts at 8 p.m. For information, call the Chabot box office at 510-336-7373 or visit www.chabotspace.org.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

FACES & PLACES

Stockton Avenue festivities slated

The Well Grounded Tea and Coffee bar will offer free samples of coffee drinks and bocadillos — Spanish-inspired sandwiches — as part of an anniversary celebration for that El Cerrito business as well as the Jenny K. gift store from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Other businesses on the 6900 block of Stockton Avenue are also participating. Free massages will be offered at 6929 Stockton Ave. The Meher Baba Center will hold a Valentine-making party from noon to 4 p.m.

Traditional Ways Healing Center will offer free samples of herbal teas as well as lessons on how to make a nourishing, healthy soup. Ken Rosenberg and Portia Lee will answer questions on acupuncture and Chinese herbs.

At Jenny K., residents can buy jewelry from local artist Carmela Rose. WorldOne Radio will provide music for the event.

Jen Komaromi and Kevin O'Neal opened Jenny K. at 6927 Stockton Ave. two years ago, and a year later opened the Well Grounded Tea and Coffee Bar next door.

Komaromi said the Stockton Avenue business district is becoming more popular and bringing local residents together.

"We're really thankful for the support from all of our community," Komaromi said. "It's been a great experience."

For more information, call 510-528-5350.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/TIMES

LIBRARIAN Karen Madigan leads children through "Three Bears" during the El Cerrito Library's "Wild Bears" Family Storytime on Monday. Next week's theme is Valentine's Day stories. Each week's event starts at 7 p.m.

— Alan Lopez

HEALTH EDUCATION

EVENT: The health committee of the El Cerrito branch of the NAACP will give a presentation on health education at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the City Council Chamber, 7007 Mooser Lane. The branch wants to educate its members about disparities in health and access to health care. Medical doctors Walter Morris and Joe McKenzie will head the presentation. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Cooper, executive director of the West Oakland Health Council and Health Services.

— Alan Lopez

ECHS ORAL HISTORY

FILM: The Archiving Committee at El Cerrito High School, recovered from its work documenting the school's history before the old school building was torn down, is taking on another ambitious project: an oral-history film. People who had a part in the school's history will be interviewed — from graduates to

teachers to administrators. Organizers seek assistance locating interview subjects and people willing to conduct interviews, operate the camera and edit.

People who have talents to share or are willing to be trained should call Janet Abelson at 510-525-7709.

— Chris Treadway

ROTARY CELEBRATION:

The Rotary Club of Albany will hold its second annual celebration, "Service Above Self," on Saturday. The party, which will include live music, dancing, a silent auction, cocktails, light fare and desserts, will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Tickets are \$20 per person, and are available by sending an e-mail to party@albanyrotary.org or by calling 510-558-1534.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Albany Rotary Club's community fund, which assists those in need locally and regionally.

— Craig Lazeretti

COAT DRIVE RESULTS: Hannah Kessel, a member of Kensington Girl Scout Troop No. 2150, which organized a coat drive for the One Warm Coat program, reports the effort collected about 350 garments in all, including 240 coats.

— Chris Treadway

PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Albany Cub Scouts Pack 3 will hold a pancake breakfast Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Veteran's Hall in Memorial Park, 1325 Portland Ave. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors 55 and over and children ages 5-12. Kids under 5 are free. For more information, call Steve Harrison at 510-558-7484.

— Craig Lazeretti

SPELLING BEE CHAMP:

Eighth-grader Negine Malboubi is the champion of the spelling bee held by the student council at St. Jerome Catholic School in El Cerrito last week. The bee is the first step in qualifying for the Contra Costa County Regional Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Contra Costa Times. Malboubi will go to the regional finals in March. Sixth-grader Joey Benassini was first runner-up, and finalists included Connor Asercion, Brian Juarez, Jordan Mutha, Shane Reed, Ariel Fredzess and Nima Malboubi.

— Chris Treadway

Have an item about a scholarship, an award, an interesting vacation or another experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo — print or digital — we can use those, too. (Sorry, we cannot return print photos.) Send items for Faces & Places to the editor by e-mail: journal@cctimes.com, or mailing to: The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

Languages, instruments worth the effort to learn

Q I FIND MYSELF wanting to achieve a skill that will last longer than simple puzzle solving. What do you think about learning a musical instrument as a way of keeping the brain in shape? What about a foreign language?

A: It is my opinion that learning anything new will make the brain grow and change, and certainly something as satisfying as a language or music will also be a boost to you personally. Taking up what is likely to be a new hobby always provides changes and stimulates one's life, and these things are so important to well-being and day-to-day existence.

When you mention an instrument, I assume that you already know how to read music. If, however, I am wrong, you may have chosen an extreme challenge. Learning to read music at the same time as learning to play a particular instrument would involve a horrendous amount of time, and considering the age level to which this column is geared, I rather doubt that you would be willing to



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

spend so much. Therefore, I am assuming that a only musical instrument is involved.

As an individual who has learned several instruments, I can encourage you to do so, and promise that the possibility of many entertaining occasions awaits you. As you learn, with an individual instructor or in a group situation, you will likely be asked to play your instrument with your practicing group or with a different group of related instruments. It is a wonderful chance to meet new individuals and to take part in a new activity. There is also a good chance that you'll make friends with some of them, leading to socializing.

Learning a new language also provides a social situation. At least one other person, and usually several others, must be involved in language courses.

Interaction between instructor and students is essential for pronunciation and general usage. As with musical instruments, learning a language is interesting and fun because you will undoubtedly share the experience with others in the same situation. The fact that your brain is also getting great benefit from all of this is a tremendous plus.

I realize that not everyone wants to learn musical instruments or languages. If you are a person who prefers working alone, there are still many things to learn with the accompanying brain changes and improvements. The various kinds of puzzles and exercises have been mentioned before, and if they are your preference — go for it! If you are thinking, learning and causing changes in your brain, that is what I always support, no matter which

subjects you may choose. By the way, one e-mail I received in response to my last column about volunteering listed several more suggestions that I had not discovered. Mainly, they were about environmental activities.

Two projects in particular were mentioned. Native Here Nursery would like volunteers. For information, contact Charli Danielsen at 510-549-0211 or visit www.ehcnps.org. The other is Friends of Five Creeks. If you are interested, call Susan Schwartz at 510-848-9358 or visit www.fivecreeks.org. The Web sites for both of these projects describe them in detail.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniewm@aol.com. Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults, and is the author of "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness." For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

OF THE WEEK

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

Cats: 3-month-old male brown and white short hair (DSH); 4-month-old female gray and white domestic medium hair; 7-month-old male black and white long hair (DLH); 10-month-old female calico DSH; 1-year-old male gray tabby DSH; 10-year-old female blue DLH; 3-year-old male gray DSH; 9-month-old female black and white DSH; 1-year-old female orange and white black and white boxer/German short-haired pointer mix, and may be available for adoption from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Leeroy would probably prefer to be the only dog in the home, but he seems to appreciate the company of cats. A family with teenage children and older may be the best fit. For more information, call or visit the humane society.



BERKELEY-EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

Dogs: 3-year-old male white and tan Tulear mix; 2-year-old male Chihuahua mix; 5-year-old female black and tan shepherd mix; 1-year-old female red chow mix; 2-year-old female brindle and white cattle dog mix; 1-year-old male black and white Aussie/collie mix; 1-year-old male tri-color mix; 1-year-old male black and white bull terrier/hound mix.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$40 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth Street, Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or 510-845-7735.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIALS

Shoreline groups risk tax backlash by voters

A COALITION of environmental groups has launched its latest salvo in the battle over the Albany waterfront with a proposed initiative that it aims to place on the November ballot. The initiative — which is clearly intended to stop the Golden Gate Fields development proposal by Caruso Affiliated — would establish a committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the waterfront that would then be sent to voters for approval.

The idea of creating a committee to consider the future of the waterfront has merit — if it's done the right way. That means creating an open process in which various visions for the waterfront are elicited and debated — not just the one advocated by the initiative's backers. It means addressing the reality that the waterfront land is currently privately owned, and may well stay that way for the foreseeable future.

While it makes sense for the city to plan for the possibility that the shoreline may one day be acquired as public land, it should also consider the possibility that it will need to work with the land's owner, Magna Entertainment Corp., on a plan that serves the interests of the company as well as the community. While that may fall short of the ideal envisioned by the environmental groups, it may well be a vast improvement over the status quo, which benefits no one.

And if the environmental groups are really serious about preserving the bulk of the waterfront as open space, they would do well to advocate for the creation of another city committee — one to develop a plan for addressing the city's long-term financial health without saddling its residents with new taxes each year. One of the prime arguments that will be used by supporters of the Caruso plan is that it will pump much-needed revenue into the city's coffers. While the potential financial impact is certainly debatable, the retail-housing project would clearly generate more income for the city than is currently being produced by the empty parking lots at Golden Gate Fields.

Albany voters barely approved a new school parcel tax last year, and they face the prospect of one or more tax measures on the ballot this year. Perhaps a new tax or two each year is not a concern for residents who have paid off their mortgages and benefit from artificially low property taxes thanks to Proposition 13. But newer residents stretched thin by the housing bubble may be interested in exploring some other avenues of generating revenues.

The dream of a public park at the waterfront shouldn't be discarded simply because the city needs more revenues. But at the same time, the city's leaders have an obligation to look seriously at how much of a burden its taxpayers need to bear in funding its services. If they decide the waterfront is not the proper place for the generation of new revenues, they need to identify a place that is — other than residents' bank accounts.

While neighboring El Cerrito has revitalized its plaza and is aggressively courting new businesses, there is little indication that Albany is doing anything to improve its business climate beyond the appeal of Solano Avenue and the arrival of Target. The argument that development at the waterfront or elsewhere will hurt businesses on Solano Avenue has limits. Clearly, there must be a way to complement the activity on Solano instead of hindering it.

If the city continues to act as if new taxes are the only realistic avenue for increasing revenues, it is only a matter of time before a voter backlash results, just as it did next door in Berkeley. And that backlash could result in the approval of a waterfront development plan. If that happens, the environmental groups pushing the current ballot initiative may wonder why they didn't do more to give residents a viable alternative for increasing revenues.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530,

510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Emergency numbers

El Cerrito or Kensington fire, police or medical: 911.

Non-emergency

El Cerrito and Kensington Fire — 510-215-4450.

El Cerrito Police — 510-237-3233.

Kensington Police — 510-233-1214; business line 510-526-4141.

Sewer problems: Stege Sanitary Service, 510-524-4667.

Water services: East Bay Municipal Utility District, 510-287-1380, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or 510-835-3000 after 4:30 p.m.

Libraries

El Cerrito — 6510 Stockton Ave. Open noon-8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays,

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays, 1-5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. 510-526-7512.

Kensington — 61 Arlington Ave. Open noon-6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays, 1-5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. 510-524-3043.

Parks and recreation

El Cerrito Recreation Programs — Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Meeting rooms, classes, pool. 510-215-4370.

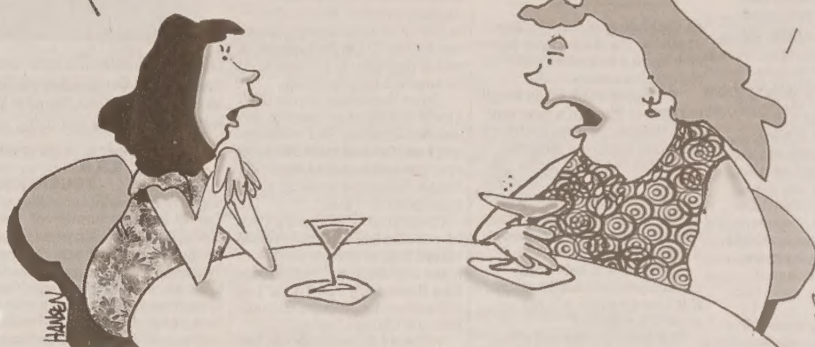
Kensington Recreation — Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 510-525-0292.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

What do men like for Valentines Day?

My husband's happy with a cheeseburger and a case of motor oil



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposed Albany street blockage

In the article, "City Council delays ruling on project opposed by Albany officials" (Journal, Jan. 13), the owners and operators of the majority of El Cerrito Plaza (Regency Centers) stated they would fight Albany's effort to block its local streets where they connect to the plaza.

Based upon statements in the Jan. 30 appeal hearing regarding the condominium project proposed for the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza, some El Cerrito officials support Regency Centers' perspective. This is utterly hypocritical.

El Cerrito has numerous General Plan policies to prevent "cut-through" traffic. Such policies include T3.3 on Page 5-23 and LU1.4 on Page 4-20. The latter policy states: "Eliminate, to the greatest extent possible, intrusions into residential areas from nonresidential areas, such as noise and commercial traffic and parking."

As pointed out in the article cited above, El Cerrito petitioned Albany several years ago to block Behrens Street to stop potential cut-through traffic from Albany Middle School on the basis of just these policies. Albany acceded to the request and paid most of the cost of the closure.

Now, El Cerrito officials appear headed to trying to jam open Albany's streets to the plaza. These officials apparently believe their cut-through traffic prevention policies are only for their own residents and no one else.

This pursuit would make El Cerrito's relationship with Albany "take-take." El Cerrito sends some of its children to Albany schools without paying Albany parcel taxes and blocking streets against potential Albany school traffic, while at the same time accepting Albany shoppers and their tax dollars and using local Albany streets for the purpose.

If you live in El Cerrito, please tell your council member what is good for El Cerrito is good for your neighbor. Ask them not to pursue keeping Albany's local streets connecting to the Plaza open.

Preston Jordan
Albany

Resigned in protest

I have resigned from the Albany Parks and Recreation Commission to protest the undemocratic actions of PRC chair Alan Riffer.

Riffer has politicized the commission by offering Los Angeles developer Rick Caruso an entire special meeting of the commission as a forum for continuing his public relations campaign for Caruso's proposed waterfront mall.

Riffer even relocated the special meeting to City Council chambers to provide a camera-equipped stage for Caruso's presentation, which will enjoy multiple replays on our local public access TV station.

When I asked that open space/park advocates be offered equal time for a presentation at the meeting, my request was denied.

This charade of a planning process illustrates the very real need for the proposed Citizens' Planning Initiative to Protect Albany's Shoreline to ensure an open community process vs. the current Caruso PR campaign.

It's outrageous that Riffer and other pro-mall politicians think they can control public debate by banning open space advocates from having an equal voice at public forums.

Riffer's stand on the mall is well known (he has hosted Caruso PR events at his home). It is not wrong for a city official to have a strong stand, but it is wrong for him to use his position to promote it and quash open debate.

Brian Parker
Albany

Sensible, and not

I am truly amazed at the amount of discussion and acrimony over the development proposed for the parking lot at Golden Gate Fields. It seems like a straightforward enough proposition.

The people at Golden Gate Fields want to build a development on their parking lot that will bring in needed money for the city's infrastructure, as well as the police, fire department and schools — all the while leaving the race track money to still come in to city coffers.

The other side wants to build a much smaller development, close to the freeway, that will not bring in nearly the amount that the other one will. Their plan is, of course, contingent upon the race-track leaving.

Obviously, this will do nothing but force the Albany city government and the schools to raise the taxes to make sure the needed money is there.

I think the way to make Albany a better place and not increase property taxes is to OK the development of the parking lot at Golden Gate Fields and scrap the other plans for "taking over" the race-track land.

One is sensible and the other is not!
Michael J. O'Leary
Albany

Spray plan appalling

I find it appalling the city of Albany, which promotes "green" businesses, would even consider saving money by spraying a carcinogen, also known to cause miscarriages and other health problems, on our kids' playgrounds.

I say, if we can't afford to remove the grass in a way that is safe for the health of our children, then we surely don't need the park "upgrades."

Amy Pieri
Albany

Planning initiative

Mall developer Caruso Affiliated has been courting Albany residents for the past year at small coffees, ostensibly to listen to our suggestions for the Albany waterfront.

At the coffee I attended, residents expressed marginal interest in retail stores but considerable interest in open space and a park. Several favored a small hotel and place to drink coffee and enjoy the view. No one was interested in a shopping mall.

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

Months later, Caruso presented a plan for a large shoreline shopping mall. The plan contained almost nothing that had been discussed at the meeting I attended. Major feasibility issues, e.g., parking and traffic patterns, had not been worked out. The hotel was included, but the presentation made clear that it might not make the final cut. I felt that the Caruso meeting I attended earlier had been a sales event, push poll with coffee and cookies.

Citizens for the Albany Shoreline recently presented an alternative to Caruso mall plan: their Citizens' Planning Initiative is Albany's best course: an accountable, comprehensive resident-driven planning process and for serving the city's shoreline in accordance with the majority of residents have repeatedly supported.

The initiative establishes guidelines for a 15-resident commission to plan the entire Albany waterfront, including development set back from the shoreline and addressing options if the racetrack ever shuts down.

The process will take work and time and might be contentious at times. But one is likely to be entirely satisfied when the process is completed, Albany will have a plan for the future that will return a profit for investors, provide needed income to the city, restore the shoreline environment and make our residents and future generations proud.

Peter Mar
Albany

Parks' powerful book

At age 84, there are nights that sleep seems almost impossible, which often finds me looking at late-night TV.

On such a night, I happened to pick up a book written by Rosa Parks. About halfway through the book and way past midnight, I decided to go to bed. Once in bed, I was compelled to pick up this book again and finish it.

I finally got to bed at 3 a.m. Though very tired, I found it very difficult to get some needed sleep. No other book has affected me this way.

The fact that this one black woman was able to get the support of Martin Luther King Jr. and other black leaders seems almost impossible, since her life and well-being were very much in danger; other people, including innocent children, had been killed and churches had been bombed.

I can't help but ask myself: Were there no powerful white men and women in the South who could have come forward before Rosa Parks did? The beating of black people by white policemen, dogs, whips and lynchings were well known and shown on public television. Why were our president and elected officials in favor of this kind of treatment in the South. However, I don't recall her husband speaking against the treatment of blacks in the South.

Blacks were treated very badly all during my 4½ years in the Navy CBs. The well-known Port Chicago explosion that killed hundreds of blacks was condoned and accepted by our white officers, military and our government.

President Truman, like Rosa Parks, was right when he did everything necessary to bring about the integration of our military forces. I'm sure Parks was very happy on that day, knowing she had a lot to do with our president's actions.

Now that Parks and Truman are in the same place, I'm sure they will have a lot to say to each other.

Fred
El Cerrito

BUSINESS NAME FILINGS

The following individuals or corporations filed fictitious-business-name statements in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Journal makes every effort to ensure accuracy but cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions in this list. The Journal gathers information from fictitious-business-name filings with the counties; not all listings are new businesses. These listings are a public service and do not satisfy requirements that busi-

ness owners advertise legal notices of their business names.

El Cerrito

Converging Points Design Group, Darrell Gray, 7776 Duke Court
Del Norte Cleaners, Sook Won Jin, 11299 San Pablo Ave.
Louisiana Famous Fried Chicken, Chakay McDonald, 340 El Cerrito Plaza
On-Time Appraisals, Michael Scott, 747 Bay Tree Lane, Top Stereo & Cellular, Esmail Taherian, 11264 San Pablo Ave.
Urban CD Replication-LikeWise Media, Kevin Brown, 717 El Cerrito Plaza, Suite 717

SENIOR CALENDAR

Albany

■ **Albany Senior Center** — Weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 846 Masonic Ave. Health insurance counseling by HICAP 1-3 p.m. Monday and free Over 60 Health and Foot Clinic. 510-524-9122.

El Cerrito

■ **El Cerrito Committee on Aging** — Wednesday, 3 p.m. at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane.
■ **Christ Lutheran Senior Center** — Mondays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 780 Ashbury

Ave. Computers, needlecrafts and exercise. Monday, Charles Fitch will show slides. 510-524-1050.

■ **St. John's Senior Center** — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 6500 Gladys Ave. Needlecrafts, pressed-flower card-making, painting and drawing. Tuesday, Michael Bond, with the El Cerrito Fire Department, will speak on emergency preparedness. 510-237-3808.

■ **The Open House** — Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 6500 Stockton Ave. Social recreation programs; support groups; health insurance counseling;

computer classes; Mind Works; weekly cash bingo. 510-215-4340.

■ **Community Center** — 7007 Moers Lane. There will be a tea dance Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments included with \$3 admission. 510-215-4340.

Kensington

■ **Kensington Senior Activity Center** — Thursdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Conversational German, watercolor painting and meditation group. 510-526-9146.

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Small class size makes a big difference in the quality of your child's education. Research has demonstrated that classes of 15 or below have a dramatic positive impact on academic achievement, social development and emotional well-being when compared to classrooms of 20 or above. Saklan Valley School features a top-notch academic preparation in classes that average 12 and are capped at 16. Our program also provides excellent enriching education in foreign language, arts & music, science & computers, and physical education.

Saklan educates children from all over the East Bay beginning in Preschool (age 3) and running through to 8th Grade. We are located on a lovely small campus under redwood trees in beautiful Moraga Valley, and we offer shuttle transportation from Alamo, Lafayette and Orinda.

For a personal tour of the campus, call us at 925.376.7900 or visit our website at www.saklan.org. Consider investing in educational excellence for your child by choosing Saklan's superior education.

ARCHWAY SCHOOL

With our recent expansion and fall opening of our 5th through 8th Grade Upper School campus in Berkeley as well as the improvements to our K-4th Grade Lower School campus in Oakland, this has been an exciting year for Archway School.

Archway School has a long and proud tradition of providing a rich hands-on curriculum to its students in kindergarten through grade 8. Our wonderfully diverse teaching staff and beautiful campuses provide students a unique environment in which to develop academic and personal excellence. At Archway we are committed to engaging children's natural curiosity, engaging children in their own learning, respecting individual progress, valuing social development service to the

community, and maintaining diversity in our classrooms, curriculum, and community. We are very pleased to announce our expansion and opening of our Berkeley upper school campus and shuttle service from Oakland. Features of our new site include a gymnasium, multimedia lab, science lab, and proximity to Berkeley's "gourmet ghetto."

For information about tours please call 510-547-4747 (Oakland) or 510-849-4747 (Berkeley). We are currently accepting applications for grades K-8 for the 2006-07 school year. Visit us online at www.archwayschool.org. Archway School is a program of Woods Edge, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 1973.

MAYBECK HIGH SCHOOL

Maybeck High School is a small, independent college preparatory high school located directly across the street from the University of California, Berkeley. Its dynamic location attracts interesting and diverse families and faculty, all wishing to be part of a small, caring community in the midst of a busy urban environment. Maybeck was established in 1972, is fully accredited, and is dedicated to developing the whole

person with its creative approach to rigorous academic learning, school-wide camping trips, and special travel programs in California and abroad. Our average class size of 12 cultivates an exciting learning environment where ideas are debated and students thrive as individuals. The school's central location makes it easily accessible by bus and BART. Tuition is reasonable and financial aid is available.

BEACON DAY SCHOOL

The Best Kept Secret in the East Bay

Beacon's founding premise is to educate children for life in today's knowledge-based world, by providing the tools, skills and approach that establish the independent learner. At Beacon Day School children are taught how to learn, not just what to learn. The approach promotes the growth of all students and inspires, challenges and nurtures the achiever. Beacon students are confident, competent and committed. They are risk-takers who experience success through academic mastery and they excel at the

finest high schools, colleges and universities.

Beacon Day School offers an early childhood education program, as well as elementary and middle school curriculum. Beacon's unique campus is located on the Oakland waterfront at Embarcadero Cove, with easy access to downtown Oakland, East Bay comm-unities and San Francisco. BART, ferries and major freeways are minutes away. Parents interested in a powerful education for their children should call 510-437-2311 to schedule a tour.

BEAD INSPIRATIONS

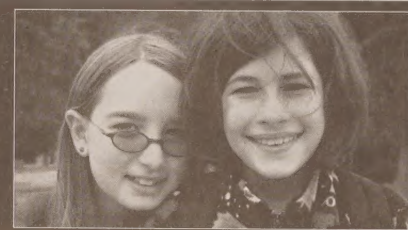
Tired of waiting for the Valentine's Day jewelry you've always wanted? Be your own Valentine! Show yourself some much-deserved love by nurturing your creative side. Allow inspiration to flow through you, all while creating a beautiful piece of jewelry you will treasure for years to come.

If you have always wanted to learn how to make gorgeous necklaces, bracelets, earrings and more, now is your chance! Register today for one or more of our inspiring classes. Not only will you learn how to make beautiful jewelry, you will meet many other inspiring individuals like yourself, bursting with creativity. Come enjoy the supportive, encouraging atmosphere here at Bead Inspirations, all while giving yourself rejuvenating creative therapy. Most students will be able to complete more than one piece of jewelry in class. We'll make it easy for you, and it's fun! See class samples in the store or at www.beadinspirations.com

Upcoming beginner classes (age 14 & up):

- Basic Earring & Wire — Sat., Feb. 11, 10:00am-1:00pm
Sun., Feb. 26, 1:00-4:00pm
(Each is a one-day class, offered two separate dates.)
- Beaded Loom — Sun., Feb. 12, 12:30-4:30pm
- Queen's Chain — Sat., Feb. 18, 10:00am-1:00pm
- Ribbon Necklaces: Organza & Wire Mesh — Sun., Feb. 19, 12:30-4:30pm
- Peyote Amulet Bag — Sat., Feb. 25 & Mar. 4, 3:00-6:00pm

Check www.beadinspirations.com for complete class schedule and class fees, including intermediate classes not listed here. Small classes, personal attention; sign up early. Sign up online, by phone at 510-337-1203, or in the store at 1544 Park St., Alameda.



Berkeley Campus
5th - 8th Grade
1940 Virginia Street, Berkeley
510-849-4747

Oakland Campus
Kindergarten - 4th Grade
250 41st Street, Oakland
510-547-4747

ARCHWAY SCHOOL



Kindergarten through 8th grade
Rich & rigorous hands-on curriculum
Exceptional teachers
Before- and after-school program on site

www.archwayschool.org

Success

How do you measure success?

At Beacon we measure academic achievement and, social and emotional development. Beacon students excel at the finest high schools and colleges, and score years above grade level on standardized tests. Emotional and social development — key for all children, and especially important for the adolescent — is addressed with the highly acclaimed EPIC program (developed by Beacon's founder, now used nation-wide). But perhaps more importantly, Beacon students have the skills, courage, competence and commitment to achieve whatever they need to accomplish, now and in the future. Isn't that what you want for your child?

Limited Openings for Fall '06
Visit a school like no other.
Call 510.437.2311 or visit us at www.beaconday.org

Conveniently located on the Oakland waterfront with easy access to BART, ferries and major freeways.
Experience the Power of a Beacon Education
early childhood • elementary • middle school

No. 010210724

Bead Inspirations

Gemstone Clearance Sale!

25-50% off selected strands and loose gem beads this weekend

Friday 11-7, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 12-6

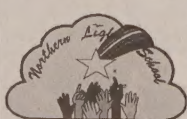
Extra 10% off when you take any class at Bead Inspirations from Jan. 28 - Feb. 26.

Come see our unique finished jewelry, too!

1544 Park St., Alameda (cross street - Lincoln)
510-337-1203 www.beadinspirations.com

Northern Light School

An alternative school committed to academic excellence



Preschool - Grade 8

Education of the whole child

Academically, Emotionally, Spiritually

Small Classes

Music, Dance, Drama,

Foreign Language, Great Books

Sliding Scale Tuition

Before and After School Care

Accepting Applications in all Grades

3710 Dorisa Ave. Oakland, CA 94605 510 957-0570

A SUPERIOR EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY - MIDDLE SCHOOL

saklan valley school

small classes & personal attention
safe, country day setting

academic excellence & character development
fully accredited by CAIS & WASC

Consider the difference a small class size can make for your child's intellectual, social, and emotional development. Our class size average is just 12.

Since 1954, Saklan has been serving families from all over the East Bay at its centrally located campus in beautiful Moraga Valley, just 15 minutes from Montclair to the West and Walnut Creek to the East. Van shuttle service provided.

1678 School Street | Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900 | www.saklan.org

MAYBECK HIGH SCHOOL EST 1972

A small community dedicated to learning, engaged in the wider world



Openings Fall 2006

2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
www.maybeckhs.org (510) 841-8489

SCHOOLS *And* PROGRAMS

Windrush School

Engaging Minds, Empowering Learners, Opening Possibilities

Windrush's progressive curriculum focuses on the skills students will need to thrive in the fast-paced global society of the 21st century. Our emphasis on learning by doing engages students, teaching them to work together to solve real-world problems. Our dynamic, culturally diverse community emphasizes excellence without elitism. Windrush teachers honor the integrity of childhood by encouraging the range of talents and interests that children bring

to the classroom. Windrush students respect one another and take pleasure in shared accomplishments. They become lifelong learners who have the academic skills and the emotional resilience to approach the future with optimism, to embrace challenge, and to take joy in finding creative solutions to intriguing questions.

Tours of Windrush are available by reservation. For more information, please call 510-970-7580 or visit our web site, www.windrush.org.

THE ACADEMY

The Academy is an independent, co-educational school for students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The school offers a structured and accelerated academic program in a warm family atmosphere for students who are well motivated and eager to learn.

While the curriculum is traditional and academic, it is also rich in opportunities for creative experience and expression. It is the school's philosophy that only upon knowledge can creative potential best be realized and self-expression more fully developed.

The Academy offers summer programs of academics and recreation. Morning academic classes focus on improving students' math and English skills as well as helping stu-

dents gain confidence and ease in these subject areas. Afternoon recreation classes are a variety of drama, arts and crafts, ceramics, swimming, science, and Friday field trips! We offer full day care services as well as a morning program for children starting kindergarten in the Fall.

The school is ethnically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse. This diversity is celebrated in the daily life of the school as students' friendships cross the boundaries of age, gender and background.

Please check our web site at www.theacademy-k-8.com. Please phone the school for more information and to schedule a tour. Call (510) 549-0605.



THE ACADEMY
EST. 1969

**TRADITIONAL
ACADEMIC
DIVERSE**

GRADES K-8

**SMALL CLASS SIZE | MUSIC | ART STUDIO | P.E. | FRENCH | LATIN
COMPUTERS | EXTENDED CARE | SCIENCE SPECIALIST
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM | SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Now Accepting Applications

**Summer Programs Available
Phone for Brochure**

2722 BENEVEUE AVENUE | BERKELEY CA 94705 | (510) 549-0605
WWW.ACADEMYK-8.COM
PLEASE PHONE FOR A BROCHURE AND TO ARRANGE A SCHOOL TOUR.

St. Joseph School

Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School offers a small school environment for qualified students who are bright, capable, curious about their world and eager to serve it. With a 125-year history of Catholic education, SJND offers an academically rigorous program strengthened by individual attention from a faculty of

dedicated professionals who nurture each student. Student life at SJND is infused with multiple opportunities for personal, academic, and spiritual growth. This is a school where students have the incentive, support and opportunity to stretch and develop to their full potential.

MONART SCHOOL OF THE ARTS OPENS IN ALAMEDA

Monart is an after-school and home school educational program that offers fine art classes for children, teens and adults. Monart is located at 1918 Encinal Avenue.


The curriculum used in the MONART art classes is based on the method and philosophy described in the best-selling

books "Drawing with Children" and "Drawing for Older Children & Teens" by Mona Brookes. Since 1979, the MONART Method has achieved phenomenal results among children and adults worldwide, including those with learning difficulties.

Leading educators recognize MONART as a teaching system that helps students experience increased self-esteem and creativity and develop the skills and confidence that also transfer to many other subjects.

Each week the MONART lessons are based on a particular theme, giving students enough structure to ensure success and enough freedom to be independently creative. Each lesson also includes relevant and age-appropriate academic curriculum, which provides students with additional depth to their drawing experience.

Learn more about MONART at alameda.monart.com, or call 521-DRAW (3729) to receive a complete program brochure.



**OPEN HOUSE &
FREE
MONART
drawing classes**

Sunday, February 26, 2006
12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
1918 Encinal Ave., Alameda

Call 521-DRAW (3729)
or visit our website at
alameda.monart.com/openhouse
to reserve your seat in a free class

OPEN HOUSE CLASSES:
1pm: MONART I (6-8 year olds)
2pm: MONART II (8-12 year olds)
3pm: Getting Ready (4-6 year olds)
4pm: MONART for Teens & Adults

monart
School of the Arts
Fine Arts Classes for
Children, Teens and Adults

Head-Royce School

Head-Royce School is an independent, fully accredited K-12 school in the East Bay. Founded in 1887 in Berkeley as the Anna Head School for Girls, it was relocated in 1964 to our current 14-acre Oakland campus with sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay. The Josiah Royce School for boys opened at an adjacent site in 1971; the school has been fully co-educational since 1979.

With commitment to scholarship, diversity and citizenship, Head-Royce offers a college preparatory

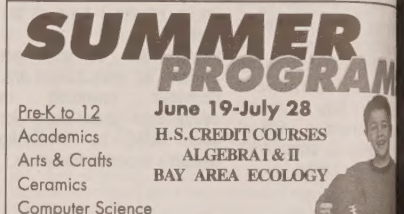
curriculum combining extensive programs in athletics, community service and global education.

The school has open application process for the 2006-2007 school year. Openings in kindergarten, 7 and 9 and limited spaces in the other grades. The population averages 750 divisions at the Oakland site. Visit our web www.headroyce.org.

Aurora School

Aurora School is a leader among Bay Area elementary schools, recognized for its excellence in curriculum, teaching strategy and community involvement. Aurora students are lifelong learners with the strength and skills to succeed in a future full of change and challenge. We are committed to ethnic, racial, cultural, economic and familial diversity (including gay and lesbian, adopted, single parent families and children with physical disabilities). Diversity offers one of the most

powerful ways of creating a mutual respect in our society of a community of learners. Students and teachers work together in an environment that encourages problem solving, creativity, perseverance, teamwork and challenges and cooperative learning. To schedule a school tour, call Lisa Piccione at (510) 428-2606 extension 204.



**SUMMER
PROGRAM**


Pre-K to 12

**Academics
Arts & Crafts
Ceramics
Computer Science
Physical/Life Sciences
Extended Care 7am - 6pm
Performing Arts
Sports
Tennis
Swimming**

June 19-July 28

**H.S. CREDIT COURSES
ALGEBRA I & II
BAY AREA ECOLOGY**

Head-Royce School
Call for free brochure (510) 531-1300 x
web site www.headroyce.org




Aurora
SCHOOL

- Performing Theater Arts Camp
- Field Trip Camp (a different adventure daily)
- Basketball Camp
- Paper Making Camp
- TEK with LEGOS Camp
- And much more

Care available 7:30 am-6:00 pm

40 Dulwich Road
Oakland, CA 94618
Call Heidi Brevet at
(510) 428-2606 x2250
heid2@auroraschool.org
www.auroraschool.org

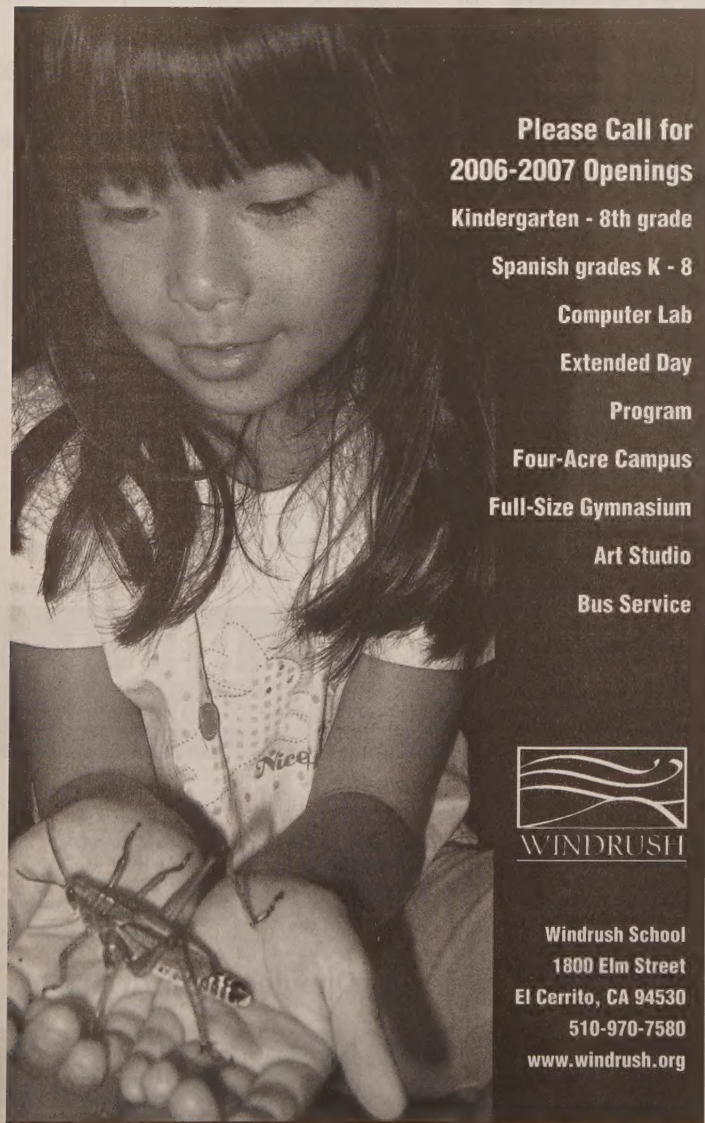
All students start school excited about learning... at Aurora the excitement continues



SJND
ST. JOSEPH NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL

1011 Chestnut Street, Alameda, CA 94501
510-523-1526 • www.sjnd.org

- A small, nurturing environment, based on 125 years of Catholic education, where every student is personally known
- Outstanding academics where 85% of AP students receive college credit
- Award-winning programs in Leadership, Writing and Public Speaking
- Opportunity for significant involvement on 28 sports teams and in 23 student clubs
- State-of-the-art facilities for music, science, technology and athletics

**Please Call for
2006-2007 Openings**

Kindergarten - 8th grade

Spanish grades K - 8

Computer Lab

**Extended Day
Program**

Four-Acre Campus

Full-Size Gymnasium

Art Studio

Bus Service

WINDRUSH

Windrush School
1800 Elm Street
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-970-7580
www.windrush.org

SCHOOLS *And* PROGRAMS

The Renaissance School

The Renaissance School was founded twelve years ago in celebration of the human spirit. The school is committed to providing an education that goes beyond what is expected, inspired and grounded in the pedagogical principles of two of the 20th Century's most prominent educators, Dr. Maria Montessori and Zoltán Kodály. The Renaissance School seeks to inspire a passion for excellence and nurture curiosity, creativity, and imagination. The Kodály Music Program and a Studio Art program, along with the study of the history and appreciation of disciplines, are fully integrated into the curriculum. The students at The Renaissance School learn a second and a third language from native speakers in "immersion classrooms." The students thrive in a multicultural and multi-ethnic environment provided by the faculty who represent many countries from five continents. In order to continue the strong commitment to the students and their families, the school is expanding and opening a middle school.

Bentley School

Bentley School is a co-educational learning environment, teaching grades K-12 with campuses in both Oakland and Lafayette. Bentley offers students a highly academic curriculum along with the benefits of music, art and foreign language.

Bentley School strives to inspire academic excellence, personal achievement and character by engaging students' intellect and creativity. Our comprehensive curriculum and academic program promotes a lifelong love and pursuit of learning. Bentley encourages students to explore their individual talents and to engage in critical thinking.

We are a community representing diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we strive for respectful relationships among students, teachers and parents. Bentley School encourages our students to embrace values that not only enrich themselves but the community and the world as well.

Zion Lutheran School

Established in 1883, Zion Lutheran School continues to provide a fully accredited academic curriculum within a Christian community for students in grades K-8. We provide a stellar, yet quite affordable, academic program as well as various recreational outlets. Our campus is safely nestled within the Oakland/Piedmont Hills.

Students excel in our small classes. Our devoted teachers ensure the success of each student. We see to it that each child receives the individual attention that he/she deserves, focusing on high self-esteem and academic excellence.

Beginning in a full-day kindergarten, Zion students benefit from a full-time P.E. instructor, interscholastic sports, and an excellent music program.

We encourage creativity in arts

and crafts and drama productions. We endorse a true appreciation for diversity, with multicultural fairs and instruction in foreign language. Science fairs and field trips enrich the students' understanding of lessons taught within the classroom.

Zion Lutheran School is devoted, not just to the student, but to the family. We provide before- and after-school child care and encourage family involvement in the school. Our active Parent Forum works with our administration and teachers, developing strong relationships and trust.

We work with each prospective family individually, offering tours of the school based on personal availability. Please call for more information and to arrange for a tour at (510) 530-7909.

Tehiyah Day School

Tehiyah Day School is a Jewish community day school which instills joy of learning through active intellectual inquiry and the practice of Jewish values and by honoring diversity. Tehiyah adheres to the principle of pluralism in both Jewish and American living and respects the customs and traditions of all peoples. The dynamic general and Judaic curricula, schoolwide celebrations, classroom activities, and informal interactions stimulate growth and curiosity and are designed to foster a meaningful aesthetic and spiritual experience. Tehiyah's high academic standards are further enriched by vibrant visual and performing arts, athletics, technology, and after-school programs. The school often becomes a focus for community life and a source of enduring friendships.

Tehiyah aspires to nurture the unique potential of every student so that each may continue to pursue lifelong learning.

You are invited to tour our beautiful campus at any time. To schedule a tour or to learn more, contact Amy Friedman at (510) 233-3013 ext. 239.

New Adult Course Offering at Tehiyah Day School! TORAH STUDY with Rabbi Mark Bloom. Come join in Torah study sessions with Rabbi Mark Bloom of Temple Beth Abraham, Oakland. This course will take place at Tehiyah on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., February 15 through April 5. Call Rabbi Tsipi Gabai at ext. 102 with any questions. To enroll, call Joan at (510) 233-3013 ext. 100.

Tehiyah Day School



Cultivating Roots, Sprouting Wings

Welcome to Tehiyah! We are dedicated to helping every child reach his or her full potential in every aspect of life. We are committed to the joy of learning and academic excellence. Tehiyah is a diverse and inspiring community based on Jewish values, where every child can flourish and where all traditions are welcome.

For a personal tour or to learn more, call: (510) 233-3013 ext. 239

Religious: B'nai Mitzvah • Member CANS/NAIS/EBISA

Day Services and After-school Care

2943 San Jose Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 www.tehiyah.org

Alumni welcome students of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. It is a beneficiary of the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay and Koorat Foundation.



Not Only Nationally...But Internationally Bentley Strives for Excellence

Congratulations to Megan Igraham - Bentley '03 and Amherst College '07, on her junior year abroad at Oxford University



Megan is a double major in Economics and Latin at Amherst and a star on their Varsity Volleyball team

For more information about The Bentley School, please visit our web site at: www.bentleyschool.net



A Great Place to Start and to Grow

- Christian Values
- K-8
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Computer Lab
- Music Program
- Gymnasium
- Full Time PE Instructor
- Secure Environment
- Small Classes
- Multicultural
- Fully Accredited
- Before/After School Programs
- Established 1883

Please Call for a Tour: 510-530-7909

Zion Lutheran School
5201 PARK BOULEVARD, PIEDMONT, CA 94611

Decisions, Decisions...

Kindergarten • Elementary • Middle School

What criteria are you using to choose your child's next school?

Is it the educational philosophy? The curriculum? The environment? Is who your child becomes as important as what your child learns?

At The Renaissance School, we develop the whole child within a dynamic and unique Montessori environment. We provide the highest academic challenges while building self-discipline, critical thinking, and social and leadership skills. What emerges is a student who is well-rounded and believes in her ability to achieve whatever she sets her mind to do.

We invite you to take a personal tour of the campus.

RESERVATIONS: 510.531.8566



The Renaissance School



The Renaissance School
going beyond the expected

3668 Dimond Avenue, Oakland CA 94602 . www.TheRenaissanceSchool.org . lic# 010214382

We can all gain more knowledge of history

"You know all about the Middle Ages," he said to Kivrin, "so I thought perhaps you'd help me get ready, you know, teach me things." "You're not old enough," she said. "It's very dangerous. ... It won't be anything like you expect."

— From "Doomsday Book" by Connie Willis



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

WHEN I WAS in elementary school, my least-favorite topic was what was then called social studies. This meant studying the cultures, geography and history of various places in the world. I can't tell you why I disliked it, except that it didn't hold my interest the way arithmetic or writing did, and, consequently, it was my weakest subject.

This disinterest in history continued through high school and college; in fact, I don't think I ever took a history class after high school. And yet my life has been full of historical events: I was a teenager during the Vietnam War, I remember where I was when I heard about the assassinations of both Kennedys, as well as Martin Luther King. I lived in Paris during the 1968 countrywide strikes and in Berkeley during the People's Park marches and student strikes. So you could say these recent (to me) happenings have impacted my life.

Yet I have continued in my oblivion about the ways events like these in every country have shaped the world and consequently the society we live in. In the past several years, I have become more and more aware of my inadequacy in this area. Furthermore, working as a children's librarian has definitely highlighted it. When the annual questions about ancient Egypt start each fall, I think again about what I don't know, and I am impressed by what the children do know.

At the adult reference desk, I am nervous when someone starts a question with: What century did ...? And living in a community like Albany, where so many of the library users are from other countries, makes me constantly conscious of the holes in my history background, since what I do know is centered on the history of the United States.

As I've been contemplating

this, I realized that much of information has come from historical fiction of some kind. For example, "The Time Warp Trio" is a children's series in which students visit various periods in history. I have read other children's books on such topics as leprosy, Shakespeare, slavery in the United States and World War II London.

One of my favorites is "Doomsday Book" by Connie Willis, which I have read and reread. This engrossing, enlightening and beautifully written book tells the story of a young historian who has traveled back to the Middle Ages, just at the peak of the plague.

However, my history knowledge is neither sweeping nor in-depth, and nothing has made this fact more glaring than the conversations that abound in my Arabic class. I am taking this class at Albany Adult School, and so far, I love it. There is a beauty and logic to the writing that makes the challenge of learning a new alphabet a little less alarming.

And, unexpectedly, I am being exposed to a great deal of history, as my fellow classmates exchange comments about wars, people and the evolution of languages and cultures. It is stunning and exhilarating to listen to these conversations, and nothing I have experienced so far — not even the repeated exposure to my physical anthropologist sister — has made me feel less adequate or more curious. I have finally reached the point my father predicted 40 years ago, when I was complaining about having to study history and geography. Some day, he told me, you will want to know these things. Well, dad, I am there.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aciblibrary.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Albany Library

1247 Marin Ave.
510-526-3720 or www.aciblibrary.org

Hours: Monday, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, closed; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The Friends of the Albany Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library. All paperback and hardback books will be sold for 50 cents each. There will also be a selection of magazines such as National Geographic and Bon Appetit that will be sold for 25 cents each or five for \$1. There will be a bag sale from 3-4 p.m. — all the books you can fit in a bag for \$3. For information or to volunteer for the sale, call the library and press Ext. 5.

■ The library has started a new program, "Movie Wednesdays for Teens." This program is aimed at middle- and high-schoolers. Please note that some of the films in this series are rated PG-13, and may not be suitable for younger children. Movie Wednesdays for Teens takes place the first Wednesday of each month. All films will be shown in the Edith

Stone Room. They start at 5 p.m. and finish up by 7:15 p.m. at the latest. To find out the titles of the films planned, visit the Teen Area at the Albany Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

■ Children will have an opportunity to create a colorful collage valentine from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Using an array of materials — fabric, ribbon, yarn and more — and lots of art supplies, participants will create one-of-a-kind valentines. This workshop will be led by Adria McCuaig, a teacher, tutor and art instructor. The workshop will be held in the Edith Stone Room, and is for all ages. No registration is required. Cookies will be served. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Join a great books discussion group that meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. The theme is "Parent and Child Anthology," available from Great Books Foundation (www.greatbooks.org; 800-222-5870). February's book is "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini (any edition). For more information, contact Ronnie Davis at Ext. 16 or rdavis@aciblibrary.org

See LIBRARY, Page A10

ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

Albany High School

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: During Black History Month, every day students will hear something pertaining to Black history. Every Thursday and Friday, students will have a chance to win a small prize by answering correctly the "Who Am I..." quiz. The first two people to get Mrs. Grogan's office with the correct answer will win. Meantime, Black Student Union sweatshirts and sweatpants are being sold outside the counseling office every Wednesday. Tops are \$25; bottoms are \$23.

BUDDY ADS: Want your own page with your friends in the yearbook? Then buy a buddy ad. Create your own page (quarter page, \$100; half page, \$175; full page, \$300; two pages, \$600). Submit your page ASAP to the yearbook room, or e-mail it to AH-Syearbook@gmail.com.

LEADERSHIP SEMINARS: Northern California Youth Leadership Seminars is holding a free one-day workshop run by high school students for high school students on Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. All high school students are welcome. The day will feature workshops about leadership and volunteerism and speakers explaining how to help make your school, community and town a better place. Food and refreshments will be provided.

THEATER: The Department of Performing Arts presents Gypsy in the Little Theater opening tonight and continuing on Feb. 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m., and on Feb. 11, 12 and 18 at 2 p.m. Deirdre Shiban is artistic director and choreographer, and Jonathan P. Ulrich is producer and musical director. Preferred reserve seats are \$20, general adult seating is \$10, and general student seating is \$5. To order

tickets, call 510-558-2500, Ext. 2575, or e-mail GYPSYatAlbanyHigh@yahoo.com.

AP EXAMS: Students planning to take AP exams in May have been receiving sign-up forms and information from the College Board regarding the tests. The sign-up forms include all the information students will need to sign up for the exams, including details on test fees and reduced fee eligibility, reimbursements for tests not taken, exams offered at AHS and at other school sites, and alternative test date guidelines. The sign-up form, fee reduction eligibility form and letter explaining the sign-up process are available on the AHS Web site at www.albany.k12.ca.us/ahs/reports_for_ms.htm, and the information from the College Board is available online: www.collegeboard.com/apstudents. Students who are planning to take AP exams must turn in their sign-up sheets and payment to the attendance office no later than Friday, Feb. 17. The forms distributed to students list the due date as Friday, Feb. 18. This is a typo — they are due the 17th, the day before mid-winter break begins. Students who plan to apply for a fee reduction must see Ms. Burns in the counseling office before turning in their sign-up forms. Students with documented disabilities may be eligible for accommodations and should also talk to Ms. Burns.

JAZZ FESTIVAL: On Jan. 28, the jazz band traveled to Pittsburg High School for the annual CMEA Jazz Festival. Their performance both on stage and in sight-reading merited a rating of "Command Performance" from all four judges. During the entire two-day festival, Albany was one of only three bands to achieve this rating. On Feb. 5, three groups from AHS went to San

Francisco's School of the Arts to compete in the CMEA Jazz Combo/Jazz Solo and Ensemble Festival. All three received the top rating of Command Performance from the judges. Group One: Morgan McLoughlin on alto sax, Ariel Vento on trumpet, Yvonne Lin on tenor sax, Scot Nicol on keyboards, Nina Lincoff on string bass and Jay Healy on drums. Group Two: Scot Nicol on trumpet with brother Tad on keyboard (Tad is a seventh grader from AMS). Group Three: Tad Nicol on soprano sax with brother Scot on keyboard.

SCIENCE BOWL: A team from AHS proved to be the best of 16 entered the regional Department of Energy (DOE) Science Bowl at Berkeley Lab on Feb. 4, and will go on to national competition in Washington D.C. in April.

Albany Middle School

YEARBOOKS: Reserve a copy of the yearbook now and don't miss out on the fun. The cost is \$30, and the absolute last day to reserve a yearbook will be March 3. Extra order forms are in the office.

SCHOOL DANCE: The next school dance is tonight. Students will be admitted only if their behavior and attendance has met school standards during the second quarter of the school year to the present date. Students must have a ticket and student ID to enter the dance.

MARIN DE MAYO: The 2006 Marin De Mayo celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 (the day before Mother's Day), and the planning co-chairs are looking for volunteers. A brief planning meeting is scheduled for this Sunday at 2 p.m., at which a lucky volunteer will receive a free meal for two at Picante. Please RSVP to Carrie Schulze at calafbam@yahoo.com

EL CERRITO/KENSINGTON SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School

SUMMER SCHOOL: Summer school forms are now available in the main office (room 1) and Counselors Office (room 409). Students who need to make up credits or repeat a course for a better grade for college should attend. You only need to fill out the front page of the application. Your counselor will fill out the back page for the course or courses that you need. The emergency information must be completely filled out, and the form will not be accepted without a parent's signature. Summer school forms are due to counselors by Feb. 17.

PAGETURNERS: Join the Pageturners book club on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in Room 33 to discuss "Triangle: The Fire That Changed America" by David Von Drehle.

GYM BAG SALE: The ECHS boys basketball team is selling gym bags. They are forest green, approximately 19x13x8 inches with a shoe pouch and water bottle holder. The bags have "ECHS GAUCHO FAMILY" screened on the side. Cost is \$20. For more information, e-mail echsbags@yahoo.com.

LEADERSHIP MEMBERS WANTED: ECHS Leadership is looking for new members for its spring semester. The student association is looking for "independents," workers who help fund-raise, plan events and have a voice on the school campus. Applicants should be hard workers, involved in school, and looking for a stimulating environment. Class begins at 7:25 (Block A), and students receive 2.5 credits per semester. Those interested may pick up an application in Room 48 or contact Brian Mertens at beamer10@gmail.com for more details.

CANDY SALE: See's Candy Bars are available throughout the school year. Buy a box of 24 bars for \$36. Candy bars may be sold of \$1.50 each. All fund-raising purchases will be credited toward music trips to Disneyland and Reno. Boxes of bars may be custom mixed. For more information, e-mail marilyn_alford@hotmail.com.

DARTMOUTH PARTNERSHIP: Dartmouth College has decided to partner with El Cerrito High School for a three-year commitment to foster academic performance and raise college acceptance rates among El Cerrito students. This three-year partnership through the Summer Enrichment At Dartmouth Program (SEAD) will send students from El Cerrito to Dartmouth for three summers following the students' first, second and third years of high school. These two- or three-week summer sessions will introduce El Cerrito students to Dartmouth undergraduate students, faculty, administrators and community members, with the goal of encouraging the students to work hard in school, to apply to college, and to broaden their horizons of achievement.

Harding Elementary
INTERNAL GENIUS SOCIETY: IGS, Harding's academic after school program, begins this month. Students receive tutoring in reading or math. Grades 2-3 meet at 2:30 p.m. Grades 4-6 meet at 2:45 p.m. Coordinator: Ms. Aguiar, fifth grade teacher.

CONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE: Construction Task Force meetings are Fridays at 8:45 a.m. in the conference room. All parents are welcome. Construction Task Force Members: Margaret Breeding, Kris Kessler, Mercedes Rodrigo, Lew Brower, Barbara Taylor.

SCIENCE FAIR: A science fair information night will be held Thursday, Feb. 16. This will give parents an overview of how to support students while they participate in the annual science fair. Science advisors will discuss the materials required and explain general guidelines for this program. K-3 students do a class project, and are encouraged to do individual projects. Fourth-sixth grade students are required to do a science project.

DR. SEUSS DAY: Dr. Seuss Day will be held March 2. Two or three parent volunteers are needed for each classroom to listen to older students read and to read to younger students. Please speak with your child's teacher if you would like to volunteer.

ARTWORK ON WEB: Harding After School Enrichment Program (HASEP) art instructor Sheryl Gales created an online gallery for drawings by Harding students. Check out The Harding Elementary Gallery: www.artsonia.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Parent volun-

teers are needed to escort children to the Harding After School Enrichment Program (HASEP) classes during the first few weeks of the winter term. If you can do this, contact Patty at: perado@yahoo.com

RUMMAGE SALE: A rummage sale will be held April 29. Please save clean furniture and household items in good working condition: clothes, toys, small appliances (coffee makers), small tools and antiques. Proceeds support art, music and science programs. Bring your items to the school office. Rummage sale coordinators: Cathie Gonzales-Leone, Lisa Bolton and Carla Campbell.

BOX TOPS: The Box Tops for Education deadline is today. Look for the "Box Tops Education" logo on the products you purchase. Bring your coupons, labels and box tops to the school office. Coordinator: Margaret Wolfe.

HOLLYWOOD AUCTION: The Harding Goes Hollywood Auction will be held Saturday, March 18. Parents are encouraged to ask their employers for donations; personal services are always welcome (last year, parents donated massage certificates and private yoga lessons). Kid-friendly movies or computer games in good condition, vacation rentals and restaurant gift certificates are popular too. Auction coordinators: Brenda Mitchell and Martina Hanke.

MATH NIGHT: Family Fun and Math Night was a success. Many thanks to David and Denise Evans and the entire Evans family. Also to Kindergarten teacher Kathleen Smallfield for her work on this event.

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AMS GARDEN: The AMS scrap of land at the new parking lot, is the green campus where teachers and students when they tend their four walls. So they tend the veggies and grow there. You can sign up by donating input (please — no Epsos) can phones and aluminum buckets are on the corner room 110.

SITE COUNCIL: Site Council meeting, Feb. 15 at the library.

Cornell Elementary

PAPER SCRIP: Information "paper" scrip program at home. Friends and family can also buy scrip to be used at school. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at (work) or 510-525-1306. Send e-mail to daniel@cornellglobal.net.

COOKBOOK RECIPES: To submit a recipe for the International Cookbook, send your culture or family specialty recipe. This is a chance to learn about each other's cultures, add to favorite times and support the school's small investment of time. Books will be available to start of the next school year. Proceeds will support the help or ask questions, Linda Reeves (Sarah and McCrory's mom) at 510-526-3014.

See ALBANY, Page A10

Madera Elementary

KINDERGARTEN TOURS: will be offering kindergarten tours for parents wanting to learn about Madera on Friday, 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, 2 p.m. The tour will include overview of Madera school, discussion of the kindergarten curriculum, and a tour of the playground, library and lab. The tours will last an hour, and are for adults only. Parents, adults and children are invited to attend the Madera Open House on March 23. Those interested should call the office at 41412, Ext. 0 for an appointment.

Kensington Elementary

JAZZ SHOW: "All That Jazz" of jazz presented by Susan McKnight's second-grade class will be held at 7 p.m. tonight for purpose only. Performance Kensington's sister school, Rouge, La., which is now Hurricane Katrina's devastation is no admission fee, but the sister school will be free. All KHS families and friends are invited to attend.

See EL CERRITO, Page A10

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39¢

Albany

FROM PAGE A8

Marin Elementary

HUNDRATHON: The 100th day of school was Thursday, which also marked the kickoff for the annual Hundrathon fundraiser, now an established Marin School tradition. Parents and friends are asked to help us celebrate the 100th day by making a generous contribution to the PTA. Hundrathon dollars benefit Marin students directly by funding teacher aides, noon safety supervisors, music instruction, enrichment assemblies, chess programs, the Dolphin student newspaper, scholarships for field trips, emergency preparedness, computer equipment, family math and science programs, parent education, and much more. Last year's Hundrathon raised \$20,000.

PARENT EDUCATION: The next PTA meeting features a parent education event, "Handling the Daily Struggles with our Children," on Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Sponsored by the PTA parent education committee, the program will feature an interactive discussion facilitated by psychologist Dr. Stephanie Weissman. Free child care is available by reservation at lifriedman@mac.com or 510-524-1243.

COMMUNITY SING: On Jan. 25, many parents attended the community sing, which was led by fifth grades and Diane's class and featured a chorale tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The "I have a dream" speech recited by fourth graders, and a serenade for Albany artist and Marin parent alum Lisa Norman, in appreciation for her glass the dolphin mural.

AUTHORS IN SCHOOLS: After its launch in winter 2005, the Marin "Authors in the Schools" program continues in 2006. Conceived and produced by Marin parent and author Elizabeth Ferber, the program is a way for students to interact with professional writers and illustrators living in their extended community. In 2005, the program presented Ms. Ferber, author of more than 100 books and dozens of articles; Michael Che Swisher, an Albany children's book author and illustrator; and Dylan Schaffer, an author and attorney living on Oakland. In March, Marin parent and journalist Susannah Patton will talk about her work as a foreign correspondent in France and her upcoming book on Gustav Flaubert. Ms. Ferber encourages the participation of all authors and illustrators who would like to share their experiences with students in a classroom setting. For further information and to schedule an interview, please contact Ms. Ferber at 510-528-4912 or eferber@aol.com.

BOOK FAIR: The Scholastic Book Fair continues in the library today from 11:45 to 12:30 and from 3 to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ocean View Elementary

CEDARS WORKSHOPS: Cedars parents are reminded that there are two staff development workshops scheduled for the School Age care program — the first is today and the second is March 24. There will be no afternoon Cedars program on those days — please plan accordingly.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION: The kindergarten orientation program for parents of next year's kindergarten students will take place at Cornell School on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Kindergarten

registration will be held on Wednesday, March 1 from 9 to 2 at the Albany Community Center. Registration forms will be available at the elementary school offices as of Tuesday, Feb. 14, and at the community center on registration day. For more information, log onto the AUSD Web site at www.albany.k12.ca.us — check under District Information, Student Registration.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Between March 1 and March 31, parents of current Albany students can fill out an open enrollment form to request another Albany school for their child. Requests are honored if there is space available. Parents who wish to continue at the same school do not need to fill out a form. These forms will be sent home Feb. 24.

ICE CREAM SALES: Ice cream sales are back in business thanks to some parent volunteers. The school staff has discussed the importance of healthy choices in the school's offerings.

Education funders

SCHOOLCARE DONATIONS: Among many other programs and services, SchoolCARE donations fund the Writer-Coach Connection program, which pairs writing coaches with students in their English classes to help with writing assignments. Volunteers are fully trained and need not be writers or teachers to become coaches — coaches come from all backgrounds. The final coach-training sequence for this school year is scheduled for two consecutive Tuesday evenings, Feb. 21 and 28, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Spaces are filling up, so anyone interested in becoming a writing coach should register as soon as possible with Bob Menzinger at 510-528-5066 or megabob@pacbell.net.

— Bob Menzinger

Middle Ages and be granted a balloon sword, which will prepare them to participate in a comedy routine, during a Hard Day's Knight on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

A special annual celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday will be held at the Kensington Community Center at 59 Arlington Ave., up the hill from the Kensington Library, on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m. The party will feature a dramatization of "Green Eggs and Ham," games with prizes, and actual green eggs and ham to eat. Because of the popularity of this event, a limited number of free tickets will be required and available starting Feb. 21. All ages are welcome.

The next meeting of the library's book club will be Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. February's selection is Ann Packard's "The Dive From Clausen's Pier." Copies of this novel will be held on reserve at the library. Book club meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at the library at 7 p.m.

The library has formed a new knitting club called "Castoffs." The first meeting will be Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the library. It will be an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. The club will meet the first Monday of every month at the library at 7 p.m.

Family story times are held Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. All ages welcome.

— Craig Lazzarotti

Library activity items may be e-mailed to journal@ccetimes.com.

Calendar

FROM PAGE A9

Bay Area Relocalize: — Preparing for the End of Cheap Oil, Feb. 16, 7-9 p.m., Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Project is assessing our region's use of resources and developing a model for local communities to bring production of our food, energy & essential goods closer to home. Feature a panel of presenters from project, Q&A. \$5-\$20 donation requested. Proceeds benefit Bay Area Relocalize project. Details: 510-548-2220 x233.

Ecology Center events — 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, Feb. 22, 7-9 p.m., A Taste of Urban Permaculture. Hear & see local permaculture designers discuss what's possible in a city. Free. — March 2, 7-9 p.m., Organic Beekeeping Talk & Slideshow with Les Crowder. Free. — March 4, 3-7 p.m., Seed Swap. Bring & get locally saved seeds. Bring seed, envelopes & pens. Gardeners, music, food. Free. Details: Terri 510-658-9178. — March 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Free Worm Composting Workshop. Details: 510-548-2220 x233.

Camejo & Kidder — Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. "How'd You Become Activists? What Now?" presented by Green Party gubernatorial candidate Peter Camejo & peace, labor & voting rights activist Jennifer Kidder. \$10 donation. Details: 510-528-5403.

Special Education Career Fair — Feb. 25, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Doubletree Hotel Berkeley Marina, 20 Marina Blvd., Berkeley. Los Angeles Unified School District-sponsored fair aims to recruit Speech & Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, more. Screenings, interviews, job opportunities. Registration: Special Education Certified Employment Operations 800-TEACHLA x29177 or email careersinsped@lausd.net.

Berkeley City Club Tours — Feb. 26; 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m.; Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Free docent-led tours of "little castle" designed by Julia Morgan: a unique blend of Romanesque, Gothic & Moorish architecture highlighted by a beautiful tiled swimming pool. Free. Donations welcome. Details: 510-848-7800 or 510-883-9170.

El Cerrito

FROM PAGE A8

PTA MEETING: Second Step Curriculum (conflict resolution) parent training will be held Monday, Feb. 13 in the multipurpose room. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Child care is provided.

YARD VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are needed for yard duty. If you can help, please e-mail karenshebek@sbcglobal.net.

GIFT CARDS: Purchase \$20 Peet's Coffee gift cards, and 10 percent of proceeds go back to KEF. Use gift cards at any Peet's Coffee or shop online.

Non-Anesthetic Teeth Cleaning for Dogs & Cats — March 4, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., RabbitEARS Pet Supply, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Noninvasive procedure by certified veterinary technician. Cost: \$35 per pet. Appointments: 510-525-6155.

Study Abroad — Rotary Club of Berkeley offers Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to young men & women to study abroad, serve as goodwill ambassadors in foreign lands for up to two years. Scholarships begin with 2007-2008 academic year. Applicants must live, work or study in Berkeley, have completed at least two years of college study or have been employed in a recognized vocation for at least 2 years. Application deadline March 14. Details: berkeleyrotary.org or 510-841-2319.

Kensington Community Council — Annual Spring Party, March 18, 6:30-10 p.m., Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Includes appetizer buffet; silent auction featuring art, collectibles, services. Free childcare provided for children ages 3+. Tickets: \$25. Proceeds benefit Kensington after school enrichment program & recreation programs. Details: 510-525-0292.

World Affairs/Politics Groups — Meet through March 27, Mondays 10:15-11:45 a.m., Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. For seniors 60+ years. Refreshments provided. Fee: \$2.50 per session.

Free Tax Return help — AARP Tax-Aide tax counseling & preparation service can help with most of tax issues faced by middle- and low-income taxpayers, especially those age 60 and older. Details: 888-227-7669 through April 15, or visit aarp.org/taxaide.

Film/dance/stage

Askenaz Music and Dance Community Center — Feb. 10, 9:30 p.m., Albino. \$15. — Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m. Brazilian Pre-Carnival Celebration with Prefixo de Verao. \$13. — Feb. 12, 3 p.m., Kids' Show with Asheba. \$4-\$6. 10:30 p.m., reggae/Caribbean music with DJ Edwin. Free. — Feb. 14, Cajun dance lesson 8 p.m., Wild Calatoulas 8:30 p.m. \$9. — Feb. 15, 9:30 p.m., Bob Marley Tribute with Groundation. \$13-\$15. — Feb. 16, 10 p.m., Grateful Dead DJ Night with Digital Dave. \$6. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Details: 510-525-5054.

Drop off or pick up at school. To make arrangements, contact Victoria Curtis at 510-305-7775 or vcutis@earthlink.net or Nora Hirose at 510-367-9295.

CARD SALE: A year-round card sale with five designs created by student artists at Kensington Elementary will help benefit its sister school in Baton Rouge, La., where one-third of the school's population lost their homes during last year's hurricanes. The cards are sold in packs of 12 for \$10. Cards are available at Arlington Pharmacy, 299 Arlington Ave., Kensington; and Sotto Voce, 1845 Solano Ave., Berkeley. For more information, contact Teri Curran at 510-527-8384. View cards online at kensingtonschool.org/upcoming.html

QUILT FUND-RAISER: Please donate a gift certificate from your business or restaurant for the annual spring quilt raffle fund-raiser. Your donation is tax deductible. Contact Linda Ruiz-Lozito at llozito@sbcglobal.net

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Library

FROM PAGE A8

The library offers free drop-in homework help for students in third through fifth grades. The homework center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail jwinkelstein@acilibrary.org.

Preschool story time will be held every Saturday morning in the Edith Stone Room at 11 a.m. through Feb. 18. This 30-minute drop-in event is for 3- to 5-year-olds, and it includes stories, songs, books and a simple craft. No registration is required. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

Weekly singalongs are held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. by Dale Allen Bold. The singalongs are free and for all ages. No registration is required. For information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

Drop-in knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yarn and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave.

510-526-7512 or www.cclib.org

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join James Dalessandro, author of "1906," the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, for a talk and video presentation on Thursday at 7 p.m.

The winter series of lap-sit story times (formerly known as babytime and toddler time) will conclude Thursday. These story times, which meet at 10:15 and 11 a.m., are for babies and toddlers up to age 3 and their caregivers. The meeting lasts about 20 minutes, and includes songs, bounces, games and finger plays in addition to the stories. No registration is required.

Children of all ages and their families are invited to join in singing funny songs with performer Bonnie Lockhart in "Songs and Music Games from Around the World" on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m.

Children in grades 1-6 are invited to read books and earn prizes by participating in the library's "I Love to Read"

club this winter. To participate in the club, each child needs to pick up a reading record at the library, and use it to list 10 books he or she reads between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28. The reading records can be returned to the library any time during February for display on the library's bulletin board. Each finisher will receive a paperback book, a bookmark and two Hershey's Kisses.

The last family story time of the winter will be Monday at 7 p.m. The meeting, which is for children ages 3 and up and their families, will include songs and finger plays as well as stories. It last about a half-hour. Monday's theme will be "Valentine's Day Stories."

Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome. Following are the upcoming book selections:

Feb. 28 — "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

March 28 — "Queen of Dreams" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

April 25 — "The Great Fire" by Shirley Hazzard

May 23 — "Stones for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr

June 27 — "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson

If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hour-long appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Its Internet docents will help you learn as much or as little as you would like. Call the library to make an appointment.

Kensington Library

61 Arlington Ave.

510-524-3043 or www.cclib.org

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library will host the second in a free five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature — Identity and Imagination" on Saturday at 2 p.m. The series explores Jewish literature and culture through scholar-led discussions of contemporary and classic books on the theme of "Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming," led by Dr. Naomi Seidman of the Graduate Theological Union, the discussion will be on the book "Mr. Sammler's Planet" by Saul Bellow.

Maggie Morley and colleagues will present a night of poetry on Monday at 7 p.m. An open mic will follow.

A Valentine's Day crafts and story time will be held Tuesday from 7 to 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Children ages 5 and older will learn how to become a titled knight from the

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Hall

PAGE A1

and to do something fast," Johnson, a councilman at the time, said. His husband of current 13 years, City Manager John Johnson said.

The new tax requires a majority vote to go forward. Ballots will be weighted based on the dollar amount the property owner is asked to pay.

The owner of a home on a lot larger than 5,000 square feet will have the equivalent of 115 votes because it will be asked to pay \$115 in the new landscape and lighting assessment. Property owners with homes under that square footage will have 103.50 votes.

The city wants to raise \$1.1 million under the new assessment district. "There's 1.1 million votes available, and we only count what is returned," assistant to the city manager Karen Pinkos said. "If there are five ballots returned and they're all 'no's,' the district fails."

The city will mail additional information about the election to property owners, Pinkos said. Call 510-215-4300 for details.

BALLOT PROCESS

After receiving their lighting and landscaping ballots, property owners will have until April 17 to return them to the city. Ballots can be returned during a public hearing the City Council will hold that night or they can be dropped off beforehand at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

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LLAD is money that can only be used for lighting and landscaping, not for this (city hall).

Instituted in 1988, the LLAD generates \$750,000 annually, falling short of the \$1.1 million in expenses lighting and landscaping maintenance accrues annually. The new ballot measure is asking property owners to make up the difference.

Under the assessment, commercial property owners will be asked to pay \$115 for every 13,000 square feet of land area, engineer Randy Leptien said. If the property is near a median, the assessment is increased to every 6,000 square feet.

IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Golden Gate Fields 2006 Spring Meeting

■ **WHEN:** The 65-day race meeting runs through May 7. Racing usually runs on a Wednesday through Sunday format

■ **TIMES:** First post time is 12:50 p.m. with the exception of April 7, April 14 and April 21, when racing begins at 2:45 p.m.

■ **HIGHLIGHT RACES:** The \$400,000 San Francisco Mile will be held April 29. Eclipse Award winner Lost in the Fog is expected to return to the track April 22 for the \$100,000 Golden Gate Fields Sprint

■ **ADMISSION PRICES:** Grandstand admission is \$4. Club House admission is \$6 and Turf Club admission is \$10 on weekdays and \$15 on weekends

should be special since trainer Greg Gilchrist has planned to resume Lost in the Fog's career that day.

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There is no monetary compensation for participation in this study. The study will take approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

Subjects will come to the University of California, Berkeley, where you will have a brief medical interview and a medical examination. During this visit you will take a series of tests designed to assess your thinking abilities. These tests use pencil and paper or computers and include such as solving puzzles and remembering lists of words.

You will be given your name on a list and contact you every 1 or 2 years and invite you back for retesting. We will also call you to see if you are interested in participating in other studies in laboratories at Berkeley that are studying brain aging.

Interested in participating in this study please contact:

Dr. Helen Wills Neuroscience Center, Aging Cohort Study at (510) 643-6609. Our address is: Helen Wills Neuroscience

Center, Barker Hall, University of California, Berkeley 94720-3190

Owls

FROM PAGE A1

Berkeley, which is leading the project, is asking for input from the Albany waterfront committee and the City Council about the project. Though Albany has no veto power because it doesn't own the plateau, it does have political clout, Mayor Allan Maris said.

"I'm supportive of putting the owl habitat out there," Maris said, "but I'm concerned about how it impacts the recreational component of the plateau area and the aesthetics — that it be accessible somewhat to the public."

"If it is habitat, it should have at least an educational component to people to participate or enjoy

it — get something from it."

That's the idea, local biologist and waterfront committee member Steve Granholm said. A trail and interpretive signs would encircle the habitat, which would be located on the eastern end of the plateau, he said.

Large plastic boxes mimicking burrows would be buried 3 feet underground, which the birds could access through an 8-foot-long tunnel made of corrugated plastic. The hope is that the artificial burrows will attract one or more pairs of breeding owls, Granholm said.

They're considered a rare bird that has suffered a significant decline in population over the past 10 to 15 years.

"There might be just one (owl); there might be none,"

Granholm said. "You can never tell, but I think there's room enough to have two. Or they might just use it in the winter. There's always a question when you do this mitigation."

A timeline hasn't been set. Additional details about the plan are in a draft report that was delivered to East Bay Regional Park District officials last week, but it has not been released publicly. The waterfront committee is scheduled to look at the plan in March.

Waterfront committee member Susan Moffat said she's frustrated about the lack of information.

"I'm not saying that it's a bad idea to establish burrowing owl habitat at the plateau," Moffat said. "I just feel there's insufficient information at this point to

make a decision. And there's been insufficient input from a wide variety of stakeholders."

The stakeholders Moffat is concerned about are the users of the plateau — the man operating a radio-controlled model aircraft, the dog walkers, and the tanned Berkeley nature lovers.

Informed of the owl plan, two women surrounded by a flock of nipping and growling dogs disagreed on whether it was a good idea.

Both women would like the entire area to remain open to dog walkers, though Oakland resident Rachel Fraser said she understood the concerns of wildlife.

"That's a real tough one," El Sobrante resident Dave Klem said. "I would be good with it if the dog people are good with it."

Guestbook

FROM PAGE A1

Dear Eric, Laurel, and Alex, I am so sorry for your loss. When I think of your parents I think about how much they cared about the three of you, and how gentle and kind they were.

— Dana Wisbar (Albany)

Julie and I met during the first semester of law school and stayed friends forever after that, through exams, graduation, bar exam, babies, jobs, moves, earthquakes, wedding, marathons, more babies, summers at the Russian River, too many birthday parties to count as Paul and I shared a date one day

apart. She was funny, irreverent, thoughtful, kind, and always saw the best in people.

— Margaret Crow Rosenfeld (San Francisco)

Eric, Alex and Laurel, your parents have been role models both for you and for other parents as well as for members of our community... remarkable individuals in every way and you should be proud. We want you to remember that your family, friends are still here to help and support you in every way.

— John, Kimberley, Lily & Oliver Bry (Richmond)

Julie was a high school friend — a smart, energetic, involved and loving person. I remember

when she started dating Paul and how happy they were together. I hadn't seen them since college, but was just looking through the San Juan HS yearbook and remembering the great times in student council, Model UN and all the other clubs and great times we shared. They were special people, and we will remember them always.

With my thoughts, prayers and sincere sympathy, Pam

— Pam Fair (San Diego)

I live next to the back of Paul and Julie's big garden on Blake Street. Julie welcomed me to the neighborhood with a kindness and caring that was special. I enjoyed her company immensely and always felt her to be a gift in my day.

I hope that the joy Julie and Paul brought to life can help carry you through the difficult times ahead. I will keep you in my heart.

— Maggie Caldwell (El Cerrito)

Dear Eric, Alex, & our beloved Laurel,

Words cannot express our sorrow. Blessings to Julie and Paul who loved you all so much, and who helped so many people in so many ways. Our thoughts to your aunts and uncles, cousins and extended family who have all lost such fine and caring friends. Whenever we look at Wildcat Canyon, we will think of these angels above it. We love you,

Peggy & Abby Scott (Berkeley)

Rogers

FROM PAGE A1

He has not entered a plea.

The viciousness of the crimes stunned El Cerritos when he regaled Paul and Julie Rogers as well-liked and active citizens.

"I can't recall (any crimes) more significant than the recent murders in the 50 years I've been around here," former El Cerrito mayor Ken Berndt said.

Former mayor Rich Bartke said the city experienced about one homicide every 10 years since the 1960s, but that began to change in the mid-1990s. The city had three unrelated homicides last year, but it usually experiences two or fewer.

"A double homicide is extremely rare," said Bartke, an attorney whose wife Jane Bartke was helped by Julie Rogers in her own successful campaigns for city council in the 1990s. "In fact, I've never heard of one in El Cerrito."

From the County Jail in Martinez, Wycoff told the Times that he crashed through a front window in the home the Rogers were renting on the 1400 block of Rifle Range Road and attacked the couple after they awoke shortly after 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Paul Rogers died at the scene, and Julie Rogers died that day around 1 p.m. at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

MEMORIAL FUND

Residents wishing to contribute to the Rogers' children can send a check to the Rogers Family Memorial Fund, account number 4086-7846, Mechanics Bank, 9996 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito CA 94530. Call 510-558-2300 for more information.

Two of the Rogers' three children were in the home when they were attacked and called 911 at 4:24 a.m. A third teenage son who was out of town has reunited with the family.

"The family is together and supporting one another, and they're all doing well under the circumstances," Meador said.

Wycoff was later arrested at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Roseville, near Sacramento. From jail, Wycoff said he was

upset with the "liberal" political views of his sister and her husband, and also concerned about how his sister was managing their father's estate and how she was treating an aunt.

"What I wanted to do was get rid of them, leave no evidence, and get out," the 37-year-old Citrus Heights man told a reporter. "And then raise the kids later on."

El Cerrito Mayor Janet Abelson, who worked with Julie Rogers on the planning commission in the 1990s, said she did a lot for the community and her family. Paul Rogers was a class president at El Cerrito High School and helped young entrepreneurs start their careers at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

"I'm really sad this sort of thing would happen to one of our own," Abelson said at Monday night's City Council meeting.

Meador said residents can mourn and celebrate Paul and

Julie Rogers' lives at next Friday's memorial service. It will be followed by a reception at the church.

"The family is going to do something privately, but they don't want to publicize that," Meador said. "Nobody (outside the family) is invited, even I'm not invited to it."

Meanwhile, the police department's top priority is advancing the case presented to the district attorney in an effort to win a guilty verdict. Police Chief Scott Kirkland said.

"We're still working the other (homicide) cases," Kirkland said, "but right now our efforts are with this case because we have someone in custody."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cc-times.com. Staff writer Bruce Gerstman contributed to this report.

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Negotiating back in style in today's market

Market is returning to reasonable home practices

INMAN NEWS
This year, multiple offers were common. Consequently, it took no time to negotiate a sale. In many cases, buyers had only one offer to make. The price was right. The contracts were negotiated with little, if any, bickering over terms. If you missed out, you rationalized that it was your chance to be and searched for another opportunity.

Last year, sellers relished the thought of selling contingency-free for a generous price. However, the incidence of after-closing claims made against sellers for property defects was higher than it would have been if buyers had insisted on doing their own due-diligence investigations as a part of the sale agreement.

Even when buyers were given the chance to inspect, they often weren't given enough time to complete recommended further inspections. With a back-up buyer waiting in the wings, buyers were reluctant to ask for more time for fear of losing the home to another buyer. Some who sold in last year's market are still negotiating claims for defects that buyers discovered after closing.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: Although the negotiation process may seem tedious, it can result in a more

times resulted in unfortunate consequences.

Not only is there more negotiation to put a home sale transaction together, the negotiating doesn't necessary stop when the contract is ratified. A positive consequence of a more normal market is that buyers are returning to saner home buying practices. Most home buyers are including an inspection contingency in their purchase contracts. And, they're more likely to follow through with further inspections recommended by the general home inspector. This is good news for both buyers and sellers.

Keep in mind that real estate customs, law and practice vary from one area to the next. If you have any questions about how to resolve a negotiation, consult with your real estate agent or attorney.

Some buyers take advantage of a seller's willingness to grant time for inspections. It's reasonable to grant a buyer an extension to complete a further inspection if it's impossible to get the inspection done within the contingency time frame. However, repeated requests for extensions of contingency deadlines can indicate that the buyers either aren't committed to the sale or they are unable to close.

THE CLOSING: Make sure that your purchase contract includes a provision that gives you the right to issue a notice to other party to perform if a contingency deadline lapses. A real estate attorney can draft such a clause if it's not already included in the purchase contract.

Dian Hymer is a Realtor, author and nationally syndicated columnist.



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOZELL BONDS, POSITIVE IMAGES

CELEBRATING ARPB(left to right): Ron Dellums; DeAnna Baldridge, ARPB president; LJ Jennings, ARPB executive vice president; and Ernest Clark, past president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, greeted Realtors attending the Associated Real Property Brokers 30th Annual Inaugural.

Local ARPB honors DeAnna Baldridge

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

The Associated Real Property Brokers recently held its 30th Annual Inaugural honoring DeAnna Baldridge, as the ARPB 2006 President. The luncheon event took place at the Lake Merritt Hotel in Oakland. LJ Jennings of Jetstream Mortgage served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Baldridge is a California native, born and raised in Oakland. She

earned a degree in political science from Cal State Hayward. Her interest in real estate and finance was tapped when she became a property investor.

Her career path began as a broker-associate with Sessions Realty in Oakland. She received top honors for listings and sales many times. She went on from there to pursue her dream of owning her own company.

Baldridge is the broker-owner of

Ridge Realty. She has served the real estate industry since 1999. In addition to her duties as ARPB president, Baldridge is also a member of the Oakland African-American Chamber of Commerce and the Oakland Association of Realtors.

"Our theme for 2006, as it was for 2005 will be 'Realists Beyond Real Estate,'" said Baldridge. "We are continuing to promote Realists

See BALDRIDGE, Page B2

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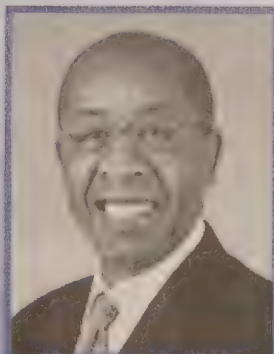
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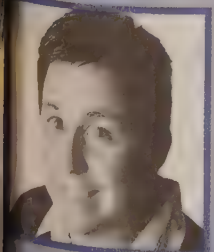
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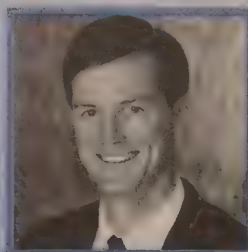
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A tiny Julia Morgan-designed home is now for sale in Oakland

Morgan was a giant in the architecture world

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY
SECTION EDITOR

In 1913, architect Julia Morgan designed a home at 339 Palm Ave. in Oakland's Adam's Point neighborhood for Frederick G. Ilsen and his family. In a career that had begun nine years earlier, the San Francisco native had already established herself as one of the Bay Area's foremost architects. After her graduation from Oakland High School in 1890, she attended the University of California at Berkeley. She became one of the school's first female graduates, when she received

a degree in civil engineering in 1894.

During her studies at Berkeley, Morgan became interested in architecture. He mother's cousin, Pierre Le Brun — who designed the Metropolitan Life Insurance Tower in New York City — may have fostered the new engineer's interest. Bernard Maybeck, one of Morgan's professors at Berkeley, encouraged her to pursue architectural studies in Paris at the École des Beaux-Arts. In 1896, Maybeck hired the young graduate to supervise construction of Professor Andrew C. Lawson's house in Berkeley. Later that year Morgan took Maybeck's advice and left for Paris. The École initially refused her admission because it had never before admitted a woman. The school "did not wish to encourage young girls," Morgan was told.

After a two-year wait, she gained admittance, and became the first woman to receive a certificate in architecture from the École. While in Paris, Morgan also found a mentor in her professor, Bernard Chaussemiche, for whom she worked as a drafter. Soon after graduation, Morgan returned to San Francisco. She worked for architect John Galen Howard, the supervising architect of the University of California at Berkeley's master plan. Morgan drew the elevations for and

designed the decorative details on the Mining Building and the Hearst Greek Theater.

In 1904 Morgan passed California's examination for certification as an architect, becoming the first woman to do so. She opened her own architectural firm the same year. One of her first independent projects was the Campanile at Oakland's Mills College. She also established herself as a residential architect, designing custom homes throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

In the fall of 1912, Morgan met with Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Mary Sroufe Merrill and other women to discuss buildings for the YWCA Conference Facility, now the Asilomar Conference Grounds. She completed the first building, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall (now the Asilomar's administration building) in 1913, the same year she built 339 Palm Ave.

By 1913, Morgan had already designed about 170 custom homes. Most of her commissions came from Bay Area professionals. "Doctors, dentists, professors and lawyers turned to Morgan for well-designed and inexpensive residences," says Sarah Bouteille in "Julia Morgan, Architect."

Morgan designed some of these homes in the Arts and Crafts style. Since the style had its roots in England and borrowed many English elements, "it is not surprising that American architects became familiar with Renaissance and Tudor architecture," says Bouteille. "Morgan turned to the striking visual effect of the half-timber style for her most remarkable dwellings," including the 1907 Charlotte Playter home in Piedmont and the 1909 George L. Walker home in Alameda.

339 Palm Ave.

Morgan used the half timbering that many associate with the England's Tudor style to give 339 Palm Ave. its distinctive character. She clad the home in plaster — also an Arts and Crafts touch — and added geometric half timbering to the home's second floor and matched its brown color on the verge boards, window frames and protruding beams that support a window box. "Street-furniture" in the form of a large palm tree in the front yard serves as a reminder of the Victorian era that had passed just 12 years earlier with the British monarch's death. An even more impressive redwood tree that the current owners planted graces the home's large backyard.

Once in the home's foyer, one is struck with the interior's distinctive Arts and Crafts flavor. One's attention is immediately drawn to this spacious room's centerpiece — a brick fireplace clad in a handsomely carved redwood mantel. Morgan preserved the Queen Anne tradition of a front bay window, which adds both space and brightness to this room.

The home has a formal dining room just off the comfortable living room. Both rooms open onto each other and provide a larger space for entertaining. A sunroom just off the dining room offers room for privacy and adds to the home's Arts and Crafts character. A charming period kitchen just off the dining room provides charming space not just to cook, but as a retreat that leads to the back yard. A bedroom and bathroom are also found on the first floor.

Morgan repeats the "English" style upstairs with an alcove off the master suite. This room is spacious enough for a large bed, and an upstairs bay window provides space



ARTS AND CRAFTS and "English" elements suggest that Julia Morgan's 1907 design for Charlotte Playter's home in Piedmont may have played a role when she designed 339 Palm Ave. in Oakland. STEVEN STRATTON

in the master bedroom for a sitting room that could serve as a space to write or reflect in the evening hours. A dressing room and upstairs bathroom are just off the master suite. A period bathtub with distinguishing claw feet and period fixtures adds interest to the bath. There is also a third bedroom on the second floor.

The home has only been on the market once before, when the Ilsen sold it to the current owners 70 years ago. These owners have faithfully maintained Morgan's design while improving and upgrading the residence, which includes a four-year-old roof, a new foundation, a new furnace, replacement windows and upgraded plumbing and electrical systems.

In 1919, six years after she built 339 Palm Ave., William Randolph Hearst hired Morgan to design a main building and guest houses for his ranch in San Simeon. For the next 28 years, Morgan supervised nearly every aspect of construction at Hearst Castle.

In 1929 her alma mater at Berkeley granted her an honorary doctorate, citing her as, "A distinguished alumna, an artist, an engineer and a designer of simple dwellings, stately and great buildings nobly planned."

Morgan designed between 700 and 800 building projects, including residences, schools, churches, stores, hospitals, gymnasiums, theaters, numerous YWCA facilities and the monumental Hearst Castle. She closed her offices in 1951 and spent the next few years visiting friends and family and traveling with her family in Europe and South America.

She died in Oakland on Feb. 2, 1957 and rests with her family at Mountain View Cemetery.

Morgan shunned publicity of any kind, and never permitted signs bearing her name at construction sites. She did not allow anyone to publish her work in architectural journals. She believed that, "Architecture is a visual art, and the buildings speak for themselves."

She was right. Her buildings do indeed speak for themselves, whether one as stately as the Hearst Castle in San Simeon or one as intimate as her creation at 339 Palm Ave. in Oakland.



JULIA MORGAN



JULIA MORGAN'S design provided for this spacious alcove in the master bedroom.



A BRICK FIREPLACE with a wooden mantel, echoing the Arts and Crafts style, takes center stage in the living room at 339 Palm Ave. in Oakland. DENNIS EVANOSKY/STAFF

VITAL STATISTICS

What: A Julia Morgan Arts and Crafts-style home at 339 Palm Ave. in Oakland's Adams Point neighborhood.
Size: A 2,245 square-foot home on a 5,850 square-foot lot.
Bedrooms: Three.
Baths: Two.
Features: Architect Julia Morgan's original drawings emphasize the attention the renowned architect paid to the details in this home with custom windows, beautiful woodwork and a functional floor plan. The large dining room/living room with a fireplace makes the home perfect for entertaining. The home has a large master bedroom suite and landscaped front and back yards. Upgrades and improvements include a four-year-old roof, a new foundation, an upgraded electrical system, a new furnace, replacement windows and upgraded plumbing.
Price: \$829,000.
Agent: Steven Stratton, Alain Pinel Realtors, 510-368-0614.

Baldridge

FROM PAGE B1
beyond the traditional real estate environment."

This is her second consecutive term as the ARPB President. Baldridge's contributions to community and professional organizations have made her well recognized with the Oakland community. She was also the ARPB 2003 Realist of the Year and a recipient of the ARPB Top Producer Award. She is an active member of the Women's Council of Realtors.

In attendance were the Honorable Ron Dellums, who is running for mayor of Oakland; Ernest Clark, owner of Seville Real Estate and National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) past president and Kenny Sessions, owner of Sessions Real Estate and 2006 California Association of Real Estate Brokers (CAREB) president. Sessions conducted the installation ceremony and administered the oath of office to the new officers.

Other 2006 officers include:
■ Monique Washington of Balanced

- Financial
- L.J. Jennings of Jetstream Mortgage
- Joseph Larkin of Corpus Christi Realty
- Felicia Favroth of Next Level Real Estate
- Lila Stevens of Session Real Estate
- Linda Scott of Seville Real Estate
- Rolanda Wilson of Nationwide Mortgage
- Matthew Thomas of Thomas Chambers Company
- Karen Davis of Placer Title

New board of directors members are Cecil Reeves, Troy Johnson, and Sylvester Brooks. Renee Terrell, Betty Moore, Ernest Clark, Denise Smith, Bridget Cain and Anita Jones are continuing Board members.

The 2005 Community Service Award was a tie with recognition given to Nina Tanner-Smith and Flora Krasnovsky. Recipient of the Realist of the Year Award for 2005 was Verna Brooks of Transcontinental Mortgage.

See www.arpb.org or call the association at 510-653-2712 for more information.

Spruce-up projects can transform your home

When the inclement weather finally disappears at the end of winter, what will you see? A blah exterior? Not to worry. Springtime is a natural point in the year to add a facelift to the exterior of your house.

Do-it-yourselfers nationwide eagerly wait for sunny weather to add a coat of paint to a home and wash away winter's gloom. To take it a step further, consider sprucing up the outside of your home with easy-to-install urethane millwork products.

"Upgrades with urethane millwork can quickly transform a home," says Tina Mealer of Fypon, a leading manufacturer of millwork products. "Exterior home embellishments also translate into money in your pocket when you sell a house. The added curb appeal you achieve with urethane pieces can really help increase the value of your home."

A key reason urethane pieces add more value than wood trim pieces is their low-maintenance appeal. Unlike wood, urethane does not rot, warp or decay. It also resists insects, termites and humidity, making it ideal for use on homes in all areas of the country.

"Whether you're sprucing-up a

seaside Florida retreat or a suburban Minnesota home, urethane products are ideally suited for all climates," says Mealer. "These man-made products are extremely durable, yet they can be painted and stained just like wood to complement your home's exterior."

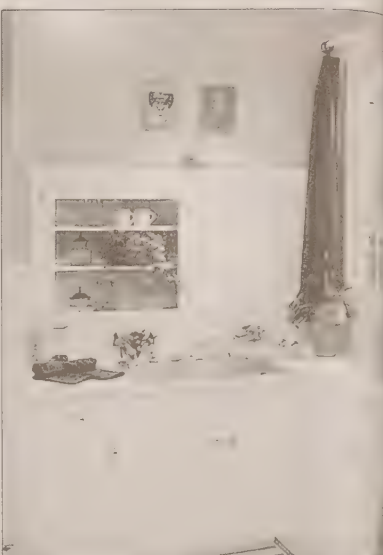
Mealer suggests the following do-it-yourself projects for homes that can be achieved in half a day or less:

Project #1

Look at — not through — your windows. Are they unadorned? Try adding a window crosshead and keystone to the top of the windows on the front of your home to increase the overall look of the home. If you have lots of room around each window, add a plinth block or rosette at each corner. Then, fill in with straight cuts of window trim molding. There will be no mitering hassles to contend with and each window can be done in less than 30 minutes.

Project #2

Add ventilation to your attic space. Functional louvers help increase the air flow in your attic,



THE HOME'S PERIOD KITCHEN with painted wood cabinets adds charm to the home.



THE HOME'S FORMAL DINING ROOM partners with the room to provide a large, yet intimate space for entertaining. DENNIS EVANOSKY/STAFF

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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthing

Expo are May 15 to 20. Registration opens Wednesday, Feb. 15 at www.Realtor.org. Exhibit booths are available. To reserve a booth contact Hal Erickson at 800-752-6312.

TAKE NOTE

These are mark your calendars items. The NAR Annual Realtors Conference & Expo is Nov. 10 to 13. The host city is New Orleans. The next California Association of Realtors Business Meeting is in June, in the state capital. The CAR Realtor Expo is scheduled Oct. 17 to 19 in Long Beach. Reservation information is at www.car.org.

WCR

The Women's Council of Realtors plans a mid-year meeting in Washington DC, May 18 to 21. Attendees will stay at the Capital Hilton. The event includes networking, an awards banquet and a Cyber Café. WCR's Performance Management Network (PMN) designation sessions are offered for attendees. The classes focus on current topics driving the marketplace. Check www.wcr.org.

COLE CLASSES

Veteran coach and trainer Kitty Cole offers several classes for Realtors. You can get the listing, handle buyers and gain presentation skills. Classes are offered in Berkeley, Pleasanton and Fremont. Register for classes by calling 925-254-1900 or use e-mail at www.kittybiz.com.

NOTARY

Become a notary in one day or renew a commission. The prep course and state exam are both offered on the same day. Before the class, you will receive practice ques-

tions plus tips and moneymaking ideas. Visit the Web site at www.notariesunlimited.com.

OVERNIGHT DISCOUNTS

FedEx has joined the Realtor VIP Alliance Program as a premier partner of the National Association of Realtors. Sizable discounts with preferred pricing and cost savings would be offered to members. One aspect of the program is an online benefit at fedex.com, where a shipping address book can be stored and labels created. To learn more about the NAR and FedEx program visit www.realtor.org/realtorVIP.

BOBBIE HEARS

■ The good folks at Keller-

See REID, Page B4

Electrical tip:

READER'S DIGEST

Safety should be your first concern when you are making electrical repairs.

- Always turn off power at the service panel before starting work.
- Unplug any appliances you will be working on.
- Post a sign on the service panel indicating that you are working on the circuits so nobody tries to restore power.
- Labeling the wires will make your repairs easier — and safer.
- Avoid making yourself an electrical conductor in the event of an emergency: Make sure you are not standing on a wet floor. Use a wooden, rather than a metal, stepladder. Don't touch bare metal, such as pipe or ducts, in the work area.

Also, use shoes with rubber soles and tools with rubber grips. Have a friend or family member assist you. Have all tools on hand before you start. When in doubt, call an electrician.

Inheritance can be subject to capital gains tax



THOMAS MUSIL
Real Estate Q&A

Q. My father's property was put in my sister's and my name 10 years ago. The mobile home that was located on this property burned down four years ago. There were a few sheds on the property and no one has lived at this location since then, it has just sat idle.

A. We sold this land this year; my sister received half (just over \$10,000) and I received the other half. I do not know how to handle the taxes on this. How to prove the cost of improvements made on it (property originally cost \$500); and how my sister and I handle the tax benefits between us.

A. Based on the information provided, I assume that you and your sister inherited the property from your father. If that is the case, there would not be any taxes due on the property's value (initial basis) when you inherited the property.

However, taxes are due, at a long-term capital gains rate of 15 percent, on the \$20,000-plus selling price less the initial basis and the cost of any improvements that you made during the last 10 years. I hope that you have saved all your receipts. Your question may have other significant components that would impact your tax consequences. You should discuss this matter with an accountant to assure that the correct amount of taxes are paid.

Q. I was widowed 15 years ago, and waited until I was 55 and sold my home. At the time the exemption was \$150,000. I have since been living with a new partner, but did not marry so that I would be eligible for my late husband's SSI when I turned 60.

A. I am now 64 and want to know if my partner and I marry now, is there a time period before we are eligible to use the \$500,000 exemption for married couples? I know that by the old law I was considered a "tainted spouse" and was not el-

igible for another exemption but I believe that changed when the new rules were made. Is that correct?

A. The revisions to the maximum tax-free profits on the sale of a primary residence were changed in 1997. Before 1997, you were allowed up to a \$150,000 tax-free profit. The 1997 revisions now allow a tax-free profit of up to \$500,000 for a couple filing a joint tax return. A single taxpayer can earn up to \$250,000, tax-free in profit on the sale of a primary residence. In both cases, the property must have been lived in for two out of the last five years.

The 1997 law did not carry forward the ineligibility restriction for a "tainted spouse." Consequently, assuming that you and your new spouse will live in the home for two out of next five years, you will be eligible for a tax-free profit of up to \$500,000. If you sold the home now, the tax-free profit would be limited to \$250,000 because your soon-to-be husband has not lived in the home for two out of the last five years.

Dr. Thomas Musil is the director of the Shenahan Center for Real Estate in the College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He has over 25 years of experience in real estate as a broker, analyst, consultant and expert witness in real estate litigation and arbitration disputes. E-mail questions to: tamusil@stthomas.edu. Please include your name, city and state.

Estate Focus:

Warm Traditional-style home in Berkeley



THE QUANT AND PRETTY HOME at 940 Regal Road on Berkeley was built in 1922 in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the North Berkeley Hills, just down the hill from Cragmont. It features a steep-pitched gabled roof, handsome doors and windows, a gated wooden fence and a courtyard entrance. The main level is full of natural light that warms the matchstick hardwood floors, built-in cabinets and floor plan. The living room has a large, floor-to-ceiling bay window and a dramatic cream marble fireplace. French doors open to the courtyard from the dining area. The updated eat-in kitchen sliding doors to a small deck overlooking the broad brick patio below. A large pantry/laundry area adjacent to the kitchen. Two roomy bedrooms and a remodeled tile bathroom are located on the main level. Downstairs is a third bedroom with an extra storage area, a patio view and a second remodeled bath with a glassed-in stall shower. The lower level opens to the private enclosed yard. Close to public transportation, Tilden Park, the UC campus, restaurants and shops. Price: \$735,000. Open Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Listing agents: Todd Hodson and Ron Egberman, Marvin Gardens Real Estate, 510-524-0800.

Open Sunday

SUNDAY 2-4:30. Conveniently located near public transportation and outstanding public schools, this charming Cape Cod home has a fully detailed entry and spacious formal living room. The updated kitchen adjoins a sunny breakfast area and large family room with garden access. The upstairs level includes four bedrooms, office and two baths. Offered at \$1,350,000

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Local trio of Realtors to help seniors

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Seniors who need advice about their homes and rental properties can turn to Edna Olmstead, Virginia Jones, and Judy Boe, Red Oak Realty agents in Berkeley. Edna, Virginia, and Judy have each been awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist professional designation by the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council, and have formed a team—"The Luxury of Three"—to help seniors with any and all real estate issues. With a combined experience of over 65 years as licensed agents, they bring seniors the luxury of three experienced agents working together in their interest.

Senior Real Estate Specialists help seniors make wise decisions about selling the family home, buying rental property, managing capital gains and estate tax implications of owning real estate, obtaining a reverse mortgage, moving to a senior community or a new home, and other issues.

This team of three designated Seniors Real Estate Specialists has



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ginia and Judy at 510-280-2165, or check out their forthcoming Web site, www.LuxuryofThree.com.

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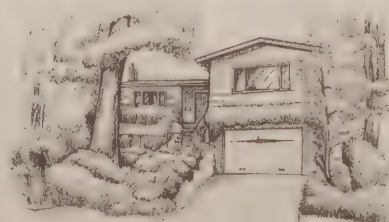
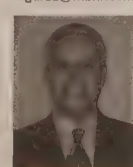
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www.256LosAltosDrive.com

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Buying? Don't skip a home inspection

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Buying a new home is no small task. There are lots of things to consider: locating a property you like, working out the financing and sorting out moving expenses.

And don't forget the home inspection.

A professional home inspection can help uncover costly structural and mechanical concerns that you may have missed during the home purchase process. Typically, the report a home inspector issues after

examining the home offers a report records positives and negatives about the condition of property. This report can ultimately tell you whether the property represents your true dream home or a money pit.

As with the location of a home and the financing involved, a home inspector should be selected carefully. Here are a few guidelines to think about when seeking the services of a professional home inspector.

■ Hire a specialist. The home inspector should be familiar with uncovering out problems on a residential property, commercial structure, or both.

■ Inquire about a prospective inspector's professional training, experience and time on the job. Does the inspector belong to a professional home inspection association? Membership in such as group may

bolster an inspector's professional credentials.

■ Don't dismiss a home inspector recommendation from a friend or acquaintance. Word of mouth may prove one of your best ways of finding a good home inspector. It also does not hurt to check out a home inspector's performance record with the Better Business Bureau or a local department of consumer protection.

See INSPECT, Page B5

Reid

FROM PAGE B3

Williams Piedmont/Oakland waited to bring in the New Year with a bang! Party planners broker **Matt Murphy** and **Vanessa Bergmark** entertained clients and Affiliates with an evening of dancing, edibles, "gambling" and giveaways. It was all done New Orleans style at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club.

■ Honorary Member status was bestowed on two members of the Oakland Association of Realtors this year. The presentation recognized longtime membership in the organization. **Bob Valva** and **Cecil Reeves**, both of Valva Realty were honored.

Columnist's Invitation

Everyone is invited to attend a local book signing for my book

"CLUELESS: Real Solutions For Men Who Don't Get It And The Women Who Love Them." Although the book is not about real estate, you might find some clues into the man/woman communication mystery. Come to Border's Books Union Landing in Union City at 880 and Alvarado-Niles Boulevard, 3 - 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12. Mention this column, "Credit Worthy", and receive a free magnifier/bookmark. Tune in to the Bob Tanem Show on KSFO-560-AM, 7:30 a.m., also on Feb. 12. Get more information at www.BobbieReid.com.

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John Chang
Realtor

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Make sure you understand your home warranty's coverages and exclusions

BY TERESA MCUSIC
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Home warranties, covering everything from air conditioner repairs to termites, are coming on strong.

But along with their popularity comes a certain amount of frustration and confusion for some customers over what's actually covered by the warranties, industry participants and regulators say.

In Texas, for example, 377,465 home warranties were purchased last year for a total of almost \$135 million, according to the Texas Real Estate Commission, which regulates the industry. Each state has its own regulatory agency.

Used primarily when a house is changing hands, the majority of the contracts are for just one year, with options for renewal, said Esta Hardy of the commission.

Home warranties are used to cover repair or replacement of most home appliances. Other areas that might be covered include termite protection, roof repair, plumbing and electrical systems. Pools, spas, garage door openers and other areas can be covered for additional fees. Structural issues such as foundations and windows are not covered.

At an average cost of \$300 to \$500 a year, home warranties are most valuable when replacing an air conditioning or heating unit. An air conditioner condenser, which could run from \$1,200 to \$2,000, for example, might be replaced under a home warranty for the \$50 service fee.

Jack Harris, a professor at Texas A&M's Texas Real Estate Center, says home warranties are useful in selling a house.

"But one caution I would have is not forgo an inspection because of the warranty," he says.

For the most part, the industry

in Texas has lived up to its contracts. Hardy says 98 complaints were logged by the commission in 2002. Most complaints centered around pre-existing conditions, which are not covered by most warranties. Many homeowners don't realize that until the appliance breaks down.

"They may have misunderstood from the beginning that those things wrong in the house now are still going to be wrong and not covered," Hardy says.

Hardy says the top three complaints are that the contracts are not honored because of improper maintenance of equipment, improper installation or repair or chemical rust or corrosion of the appliance.

"These areas are specifically excluded by the contracts," she says, although rust and corrosion can sometimes be covered at an extra

cost. Experts suggest that when you get a home warranty, you should insist that the company examine all appliances and give you a statement saying that they are in good working order.

Also compare prices and note what is and is not covered and find out deductibles, caps, service fees and other costs. Check to see how many claims the company has handled, its financial condition and how long it's been in business. A check with the local Better Business Bureau also would be worth it.

Beverly Rabenberg with the Texas Real Estate Commission says that most home warranty contracts are pretty similar, but to beware of contracts much cheaper than the norm.

"You get what you pay for," she says.

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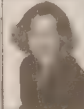
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balestrieri@grubbco.com



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A wonderful Upper Rockridge two bedroom, one and one half bath home on an oversized lot. Great location. Beautifully redesigned kitchen and baths. Enjoy large rumpus room and office/studio downstairs. Close to Farmers Market. Large deck amongst the trees, great for entertaining.

Offered at \$739,000



5655. Masonic Avenue
Upper Rockridge

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ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY, CRS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
Office: 510.339.0400/217
tunney@grubbco.com



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Built in 1910 and located two blocks from College Avenue, this pristine brown shingle has many lovingly restored original details including the welcoming front porch, rich hardwood floors and classic Craftsman woodwork. Three bedrooms, one+ baths, remodeled kitchen, new garage, gorgeous slate patio, spa and garden complete the picture of this unique home.

Offered at \$995,000



6443 Kilgass Avenue
Oakland

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MICHELLE WINCHESTER
Office: 510.339.0400/203
winchester@grubbco.com



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Plan your home-hunting this weekend!
see pages B21 and B22 for information
about open homes in this area.

Mixed Use

3721 Grand Ave., Oakland



This mixed use property includes 2 retail spaces, an office in a separate cottage, and two apartments. The apartments are a one bedroom and a spacious 2 bedroom. The retail space has a fireplace and a high beamed ceiling. Perfect for an owner user who may want to live in one of the apartments.

Anne Bruff \$1,300,000
510 594 7455, ext. 200

Miller Warnecke Four

460-462 Merritt, Oakland



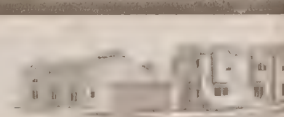
Classic building, perfect for pied-a-terre, investment compound. Large units, ranging up to 1700 sq. ft. w/ hardwood floors. Georgian fireplaces, formal dining, breakfast rooms, views. Oversized lot has beautiful landscaping. Units have walk-in closets, off-street parking, extra storage. Designed by Miller Warnecke.

Anne Bruff 510-594-7455

Condo/Townhouse

Spacious, two-story, 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath Condo in a secured, private 15 year-old building. Off-street parking, in-unit washer & dryer, wall-to-wall carpeting newer paint. Still Available.

Heldi Kearsley Priced to sell \$278,000
510 594 7455, ext. 204



Condominium

Bright 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Condo. Walking dist. Piedmont Ave. shops. New Paint. Updated Hardwood floors. New carpet in bedroom. Great!

Fred Perkins 510-594-7455

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& ASSOCIATES

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510-215-4081

Coming soon

...ing views of the city and bridge from this
...ly renovated Mediterranean! This three-
...om, three bath home has lots of outdoor
... including a deck, patio and back garden.

Offered at \$1,595,000

One Alta Avenue, Piedmont

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BROKER ASSOCIATE
Office: 510.339.0400/202
awgrubb@grubbco.com

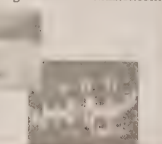
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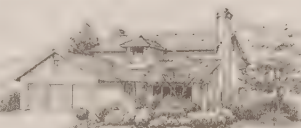
OPEN SUNDAY
2:00PM-4:30PM

MOORE DRIVE \$889,500
...air. Set among redwoods. Double size lot
...2000+ sq. ft. Renovated in the 80's, this
... home has three bedrooms, three baths,
... family room, formal dining room, living
... with fireplace, hardwood floors, two car
... level yard area and additional deck area.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



1444 E. 31ST STREET \$438,000
Oakland. Charming two bedroom, one bath brown
shingle bungalow, updated kitchen, huge
backyard, tons of 1914 charm.
Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232

COMING SOON



RIDGEMONT
Beautifully maintained with many fine upgrades.
An exceptional property on almost .45 acres, four
bedrooms, three and a half baths, large family
room, formal dining room and separate breakfast
area, two fireplace, three car garage - a total of
3300 square feet.
Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

BY APPOINTMENT

MONTICELLO \$549,000
...ell Park. Charming three bedroom, one
... living room with elegant stone fireplace,
... hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen
... granite counter, sunny level yard with great
... detached garage with workshop areas and
... driveway.
Phillips 531-7000 x228

WONDERFULLY RESTORED 1920'S
BUNGALOW \$535,000
Diamond. Best value in area of Highway 580.
Three bedrooms, two baths, formal dining room,
living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, built-
in china cabinet, basement, bonus room, laundry
room, remodeled kitchen and baths, finished
garage. Must see to appreciate.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

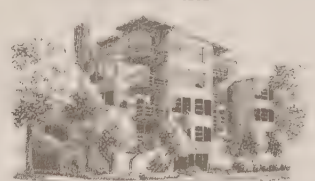


MILLSVIEW AVENUE \$519,000
...ell Park. Remodeled bungalow with charm!
... bedroom, one bath, refinished hardwood
... living room with elegant fireplace,
... designer kitchen with granite counters
... maple cabinets, breakfast room with
... scenic view, large basement with bonus room
... garage space, sunny deck and flagstone patio.
Robbiano 531-7000 x292

VICTORIAN \$499,000
East Oakland. Come see this three bedroom, two
bath Victorian with wonderful architectural detail.
With updated baths and kitchen a formal dining
room with fireplace, and a living room, this is a
must see!
Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262



SWEET CONDO \$439,000
Adams Point. Spacious two bedroom, two bath
condo with updated kitchen and bathrooms
master suite with walk-in closet. Patio off of
living room. Secured parking and extra storage.
A must see!
Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262



A SLEEPING BEAUTY \$339,000
Adams Point. PRICE REDUCED! One
bedroom, one bath 900+ square foot large corner
unit condo. Many windows, many upgrades,
very light and bright, new carpet, updated bath,
and newer appliances in kitchen.
Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238

INCOME PROPERTIES

NINE ACRES \$4,398,000
Commercial property in Northern CA along I-5.
Currently used for five residential/commercial
properties. Excellent development potential for
shopping center, mix-use, home building.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

OWNER'S UNIT PLUS \$5,000 INCOME
PER MONTH \$1,195,000
Oakland. Five bedroom, three bath with two car
garage and four-two bedroom, one bath
apartments. Annual income is \$87,000 per year.
If an owner moves into the five bedroom, collect
\$60,000 per year.
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

CASH FLOW WITH ALL TWO
BEDROOMS APARTMENTS \$850,000
Oakland. Pleasant two-story, easy to manage
five-unit building, generating \$57,000/year. On
site coin-operated laundry room and parking area
for the convenience of the tenants. Separately
metered for utilities. All spacious two bedroom
apartments.
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

VICTORIAN DUPLEX \$720,000
Oakland/Berkeley border off Powell. Perfect for
the owner-occupant. Large three plus bedroom,
two bath upper unit with loads of charm. Modern
lower unit with two bedroom, one bath.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

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classic Berkeley bungalow
meets the criteria on both
counts. Spacious, airy and
full of charm, this property
features 3BD & 2BA, a
lovely entry, formal dining
room and upper level master
suite. Wonderful spaces, a
delightful pallet of colors,
loads of unique details and a
great price! \$589,000

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LAND FOR SALE

OAKLAND DEVELOPMENT \$1,600,000
Approximately 36,000 sq. ft. level lot. Located near
High street and highway 880. Zoned for
commercial, live-work, mfg. Reports available.
Price below comparables, Subject to 1031.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

CORNING CA \$1,594,296
Three acre development property located in
Corning, CA off I-5. Currently used as motel, but
commercially zoned for many uses. Adjoining nine
acres also available. Excellent locate for shopping
center or big box comps.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

OAKLAND HILLS 2.34 ACRES \$439,000
Zoned single family. Slope varies from level, up and
down. Area for building pad. S.F. and bay views
Utilities at front of lot. Shared gated driveway.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MONTCLAIR LOT \$283,000
Approved plans. Up slope lot on Westover Drive.
Design review approved plans. Spacious and open
floor plan. Call for agent packet and financing
information.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MONTCLAIR HILLS \$199,000
Great upslope lot, tons of potential! Just over 12000
square feet. Quiet area in Montclair.
Nicolette Bot 531-7000 x261

TAHOE LISTINGS

SOPHISTICATED MOUNTAIN STYLE \$3,950,000
This is a custom four bedroom, four and a half bath
mountain home. Incredible home with all the finest
details of high ceilings, beautiful warm wood
paneling, quartzite floors, granite counters and
custom tile work in the kitchen and baths. Each
bedroom has an attached bath. Office with lake
view and two work stations. Pier with boat lift and a
buoy. Three car oversized garage.
Jim Plumbridge/Carla Werner 800-858-2463

CLASSIC TAHOE \$899,000
This is a classic three bedroom, two bath home. The
big and bright living room has a large wood burning
fireplace and French doors that take you to a large
wrap around deck. Hot tub off the kitchen. Close to
Tahoe City and Alpine Meadows.
Jim Plumbridge/Carla Werner 800-858-2463

PARADISE FOUND \$879,500
Summer or winter you have easy access to
mountains and just steps to the beach. This home
proudly serves all your mountain living needs with
three comfortable bedrooms, two full baths,
living/dining area with a more than ample kitchen.
Spiral stairs to the master bedroom that basks in
sunlight and has French doors that open onto a
private deck with lake and mountain views.
Carla Werner 800-858-2463

Laminate countertops are coming back — even though they never went away

If you've been shopping for new countertops, chances are you've been shown the latest in granite, artificial stone, or even cement. But has anyone reminded you about the advantages of and advancements in the most popular countertop surface today — decorative laminate?

It's a story that sometimes gets lost in a sea of high-priced, heavily-promoted "glamour" options that seem to spring out of nowhere. But when your money is at stake, it's a story you need to hear.

A new appreciation for an old standard

Laminate has been a surface of choice for more than 50 years. It came into its own after World War II, when America's housing boom was in full swing and it was the "cool" new alternative to linoleum countertops. In fact, these installations are now "cool" again, with a new generation of consumers seeking out original laminate countertops and dinette tables to re-use in their retro-schemed homes.

Many new laminate countertops are being designed with a nod to

this illustrious past — with updated metal edges that recall the dimensional molding that was used on so many tops of their time. But customized, upscale edge treatments are just one of the reasons people are returning to laminate after flirting with other, more expensive options.

The complex countertop decision process

Noted kitchen designer Joan Eisenberg, ASID, CMKBD, has seen the countertop consideration cycle getting more complicated — and frustrating — over the past few years.

"When consumers get bombarded with today's range of luxury countertop options, they're likely to be dazzled, then intrigued, then confused. It's difficult to sort through all the promotional messages and to compare all these new choices," she says, "especially when they're also doing the same thing with cabinetry, faucets, appliances and flooring."

It's when people get their cost estimates, points out Eisenberg, that they stop in their tracks and collect themselves. They realize that luxury countertops can be-

come a burdensome share of their overall construction budget, and could prevent them from getting that professional range, custom cabinetry or built-in refrigerator they really had their hearts set on.

"Quite often, that's when they come back to laminate — and learn about the design, performance and affordability advantages it offers," she says. "It's also when their enthusiasm for their project is re-kindled."

Laminate countertop style and design

Today's laminate countertop can be thought of in two parts — the visual style of the surface itself, and then the edge treatment. Both areas offer more options than ever before, and can be combined for a limitless range of end results.

"The laminate designs available are just amazing," says Eisenberg. "You can pick from a rainbow of solid colors, bold graphics or attractive and pleasing natural looks. The laminate 'stone design' of today is not what you saw just a couple of years ago. The manufacturers have really upgraded the visual

See LAMINATE, Page B14

It's true: There are places the stringy things just don't belong

Number 505 in a series of true experiences in real estate.

We were holding open a new listing a few weeks ago and everything was going just fine. It was a Monday morning, four days for that area, and the beginning of the year. Agents and a few clients and neighbors walked through the house, and then stopped in the kitchen for a stand-up lunch.

Anet and I moved from the kitchen to the dining and living rooms and back again. We popped delicious grilled mushrooms into our mouths and said hello to friends. There was a nice crowd standing around the vegetable and sandwich platters and people were saying the very comments we wanted most to hear.

"What a nice house, and in such good condition." "The garden is lovely." "The stager did a wonderful job." "I'll be showing the house this afternoon."

An agent asked if she could use the bathroom and we said she could. The party went on. The bathroom-goer reappeared, this time uttering uh-ohs and waving her arms in the direction of the bathroom.

Anet is quick witted. When she saw the water on the floor, she didn't think twice. She removed the toilet tank cover, lifted the arm inside up and, carefully placing her feet outside the growing pool of water, she called for help.

I'd seen what was happening by then and had gone to the kitchen for paper towels. I brought them back, whisked the throw rug on the floor out into the hall, and started mopping. There seemed to be a lot



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

of water. I remembered then that there was a large bath towel in the trunk of Anet's car so I called to her that I'd go get it.

She heard me and answered OK, frustration in her voice. She also said she sure could use a chopstick. She knew that I didn't have a chopstick but hoped I'd come up with a suitable substitute.

Agents were walking by us, looking in the doorway at the situation. Someone offered to get a pencil. Someone else said, "You two are certainly full service."

Anet was passed the pencil and it worked to hold up the arm so she could let go. She turned off the water to the toilet. We mopped up all of the water.

We talked about what to do next. This particular toilet had just been re-installed because it was a little (very little) wobbly. It had been flushing fine. We didn't know what could possibly be wrong.

We decided to try plunging it. We plunged a bunch, thought it was fixed and turned the water back on. Water poured out onto the floor again. Turned the water off.

"I'll bet it's that string thing," Anet said. "We need Shaun."

A year or so before, this same sort of thing had happened to an-

other toilet we were reusing. Our contractor friend had removed it and examined the workings of the toilet. He found that a piece of string had become entangled in the way that Shaun could not fix it. The toilet had to be replaced.

Anet was sure the same was true here. But a week before Shaun came to the toilet. As no one was in the house, we decided to wait. "Water temporary," the note we left.

When Shaun got the usual things: plunging. Then he took the toilet out and — what do you know — the string thing, just thought. Where this came from, we had no idea. It might have been long time, floating around came to rest. And when he said, that it happened were there and could have ter off before it reached wood floors.

Which, of course, at time, with this toilet, wasn't necessary. Shaun to retrieve the string and toilet. Very fortunate. The story is never put a string or stringy thing in let.

And just in case you does, be sure to be the chopstick when the toilet.

Contact Anet Tarpoff and Talbert, residential real estate at 510-653-2050 or anetandtalbert.com.



LAMINATE HAS BEEN a surface of choice for more than 50 years.

ARA CONTENT

**open
sunday**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Pristine and immaculate describe this 2005 renovation and second floor addition of this classic five bedroom and three bath North Berkeley home with views of San Francisco! The main floor including its master suite is presented with bamboo floors. A few steps away from Kensington Village.

Offered at \$1,595,000

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Offered at \$775,000

Diamond District

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Now Listing! Open Sunday, February 12, 2-4 PM

*This home straight from a storybook
With spiral stairs and many a nook
Spellbound you will walk through the door
See stained glass windows and oak floors
...and yes, this kitchen's for a cook!*

3+ Bedrooms, 2 Baths

*14 Veteran Way, Oakland
Offered at \$699,000*

Jackie Care
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Jackie.Care@pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

COMING SOON - MONTECLAIR CONTEMPORARY

Sophisticated Contemporary located on a tranquil cul-de-sac with serene tree and filtered south bay views. Updated dramatic open floor plan with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, approx. 2,633 sq. ft. Great outdoor spaces with lush front garden with Koi pond and waterfall, numerous decks, hot tub, and sloping park-like back yard (lot approx. 12,200 sq. ft.).

**32 Chatsworth Court, Oakland
Offered at \$859,000**

Teri Carlisle
510.338.1305
tericarlisle@pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH 1:00-4:00PM

PEACEFUL CLAREMONT HILLS RETREAT!

Serene 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath overlooking hills and greenery. Sun & Mt. Tam views. Open and airy dining, granite kitchen, family media room. Terraced garden, spa. Two-car garage. Superb location for recreation & transportation.

**951 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley, CA**

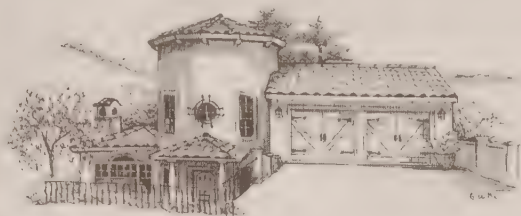
Offered at \$1,425,000

Jeannie Anderson, GRI, SRES
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janderson@pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2-4:30PM



6829 Elverton Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$1,348,000

Mediterranean architectural gem nestled in the hills with bay and canyon views. Versatile floor plan with four-plus bedrooms, four baths, gourmet kitchen, formal dining room and family room. High coved ceilings and wrought iron railings and details are found throughout the home. The dramatic entry features a spiral staircase with a mural on the ceiling.



Jack McPhail
510.338.1336

NEW BERKELEY LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2-4:30PM



1708-1710 Derby Street, Berkeley
Offered at \$725,000

Charming Cape Cod side-by-side duplex in central Berkeley. Easy to BART, Berkeley Bowl, shopping and restaurants. Sunny rear yard, large detached garage. One bedroom, one bath and two bedroom, one bath. Ideal for home plus income.

NEW PIEDMONT AVENUE LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2-4:30PM



4307-4309 Gilbert Street, Oakland
Offered at \$675,000

Piedmont Avenue and all its charms beckons from this historic 1906 Craftsman duplex. There are 3 bedrooms and 1 bath upstairs, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath downstairs. Both units have hardwood floors and fireplaces, built-in china cabinets and tall ceilings characteristic of the era. Rooms are generous-sized, and there are big back porches with amazing city views. This home is ready for its 2006 Renaissance, and the friendly neighborhood is ready for its new neighbors!



Teri Carlisle
510.338.1305

NEW PIEDMONT AVENUE LISTING
OPEN SAT. & SUN., FEB. 11 & 12, 2-4:30PM



4135 Howe Street, Oakland
Offered at \$619,000

Outstanding, desirable Piedmont Avenue area. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath 1910 bungalow has been tastefully updated to reflect today's lifestyle. The open floor plan offers flexible spaces and wonderful indoor/outdoor living. The updated kitchen opens to a deck and secluded romantic garden. 2-car garage, great storage and upgrades that include newer foundation, electrical, furnace, kitchen, exterior paint and more...

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30



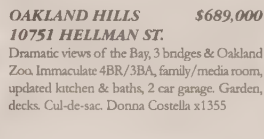
PIEDMONT
2 SANDRINGHAM RD.
\$2,600,000
Magnificent, classic colonial on over 1/3 acre. Lush gardens and play areas. 4+BR/5BA, wood-paneled library & office. Beautiful! Joanne Cornell x1325



MONTCLAIR
6216 ESTATES DR. (Open Saturday only)
\$1,250,000
Piedmont side of Montclair. Level entry, spacious rooms, bay view, wrap-around decks & legal "secondary unit." 4+BR/3.5BA. Jeffrey Neideman x1385



BERKELEY
1708-1710 DERBY ST.
\$725,000
New Listing! Charming Cape Cod side-by-side duplex. Near BART, shopping & restaurants. Sunny rear yard, large detached garage. 1BR/1BA & 2BR/1BA. Leslie Easterday x1363 & Jack McPhail x1336



OAKLAND HILLS
10751 HELLMAN ST.
\$689,000
Dramatic views of the Bay, 3 bridges & Oakland Zoo. Immaculate 4BR/3BA, family/media room, updated kitchen & baths, 2 car garage. Garden, decks. Cul-de-sac. Donna Costella x1355



ROCKRIDGE
5351 BELGRAVE PL. #2B
\$689,000
Gracious 2BR/2BA condominium w/stunning views of San Francisco, 3 bridges & the Oakland hills. Spacious living room w/fireplace & bar. Formal dining. Martha Holstlaw x1312



PIEDMONT
12 SCENIC AVE.
\$1,595,000
Magnificent, spacious traditional with bay & city views. Formal dining, spectacular kitchen w/adjoining family room, 4BR/3BA, level out patio. 2BR/2 car garage. Sheila Gallagher x1383



PIEDMONT
424 EL CERRITO AVE. (Open Sat & Sun)
\$1,150,000
Traditional charm & quality upgrades in this extensively remodeled home. Stunning "great room," 3+BR/2BA, level out to lovely garden. Some bay views. Kathleen Callahan x1343 & Teresa Baum x1387



BERKELEY
1321 ORDWAY ST.
\$725,000
Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow. Tastefully updated. Spacious kitchen/family room opening onto wonderful garden & patio. Near shopping & BART. Leslie Avant x1341



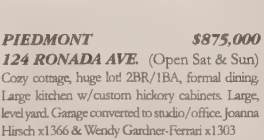
LINCOLN HEIGHTS
4250 LAGUNA AVE.
\$679,000
New Listing! Lovely circa 1940's traditional split level home. Oak floors, fireplace w/built-ins, formal dining room, vintage eat-in kitchen, 2+BR/2BA. Garage, laundry, lovely gardens. Donna DeBardi x1374



GLENVIEW
3800 ELSTON AVE.
\$639,000
Sunny light filled 3BR/3BA home w/expansive views. Open flowing floor plan. Updated kitchen opens to deck & patio. Teri Carlisle x1305



MONTCLAIR
6829 ELVERTON DR.
\$1,348,000
New Listing! Mediterranean architectural gem nestled on the hills w/bay and canyon views. 4BR/4BA, gourmet kitchen, formal dining room, family room, slate balconies. Lee Jacobson x1309



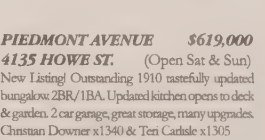
PIEDMONT
124 RONADA AVE. (Open Sat & Sun)
\$875,000
Cory cottage, huge lot! 2BR/1BA, formal dining. Large kitchen w/custom hickory cabinets. Large, level yard. Garage converted to studio/office. Joanne Hirsch x1366 & Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303



GLENVIEW
14 VETERAN WY.
\$699,000
New Listing! Tastefully upgraded 3BR/2BA 1930's storybook home. Large eat-in kitchen, office or family room, hardwood floors, fireplace. Cul-de-sac location. Jackie Care x1378



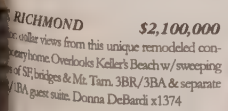
PIEDMONT AVENUE
4307-4309 GILBERT ST.
\$675,000
New Listing! Historic 1906 craftsman duplex. 3BR/1BA upstairs & 2BR/1BA downstairs. Both w/hardwood floors, fireplaces, built-ins & high ceilings. Back porches w/city views. Joan Dark x1316



ROSE GARDEN
22 MOSS AVE. #311
\$485,000
Elegant 2BR/2BA condo w/tastefully remodeled kitchen & baths in beautifully maintained complex. Great location near Piedmont Avenue & Grandlake shopping. Lorri Arazi x1330

BY APPOINTMENT

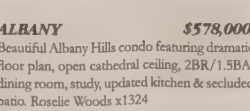
COMING SOON



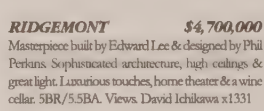
RICHMOND
\$2,100,000
Spectacular views from this unique remodeled contemporary home. Overlooks Keller's Beach w/sweeping views of SF bridges & Mt. Tam. 3BR/3BA & separate 1/2BA guest suite. Donna DeBardi x1374



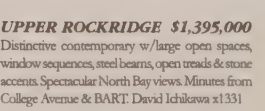
MONTCLAIR
5876 ASCOT DR.
\$869,000
Southern sun, bay views & privacy. 3BR/2 remodeled baths & one half bath. Remodeled kitchen. Level entry, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, dual paned windows. Donna Costella x1355



ALBANY
\$578,000
Beautiful Albany Hills condo featuring dramatic floor plan, open cathedral ceiling, 2BR/1.5BA, dining room, study, updated kitchen & secluded patio. Rosalie Woods x1324



UPPER ROCKRIDGE
\$1,395,000
Distinctive contemporary w/large open spaces, window sequences, steel beams, open treads & stone accents. Spectacular North Bay views. Minutes from College Avenue & BART. David Ichikawa x1331



ROCKRIDGE
\$749,000
Two houses on one lot! Both homes are well maintained and separated by a lovely lawn. Front 2BR/1BA. Rear house: 1BR/1BA. Near College Ave. & BART. Nancy Moore x1302

ROCKRIDGE
\$749,000
Two houses on one lot! Both homes are well maintained and separated by a lovely lawn. Front 2BR/1BA. Rear house: 1BR/1BA. Near College Ave. & BART. Nancy Moore x1302

SAN LEANDRO
\$669,000
Fascinating Broadmoor Farmhouse. Split level 3BR/1.5BA home. Formal dining room, bonus room. Large lot w/detached workshop & fruit trees. Michelle Miller x1335

OAKLAND
\$589,000
Charming & spacious traditional style home. 3BR/1BA, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors. Wonderful front & rear yards. Diane E. McCan x1352

BERKELEY
\$245,000
Berkeley's best kept secret for 55+ age group! Spacious 1BR on 5th floor w/SF & hill views. Big living room, enclosed lanai. Pergo floors. Photos @ pacunior.com. Leslie Easterday x1363

UPPER ROCKRIDGE
\$1,795,000
Chic, contemporary on prime street. Uplifting design w/high ceilings & generous spaces. 4+BR/3.5BA, family room w/fireplace, large kitchen, breakfast area. David Ichikawa x1331

510.339.6460



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Napa Valley • Sonoma County • San Francisco • Union Trust Mortgage



www.pacunion.com

A sampling of our current listings:

San Pablo

Cute 3bd/1ba home -- hardwood floors, new double pane windows, tiled kitchen and bath. Roof is 5 years old. White picket fence front yard and many fruit trees in backyard. \$425,000

San Francisco -- Mission

Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 2bd units, wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment or as TICs (two units vacant at COE). \$1,795,000

Mid Valley

Charming 4 bd, 3 ba home in popular Sylvan Park close to schools, rec center, downtown & more. Refinished floors and new paint inside and outside facade. Use as is or bring your imagination. There's lots of potential. \$950,000

2241 Market St. San Francisco

2200 Union St. San Francisco

and our newest location!

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California Realty

Jim Hedges
415-762-9399
sfunionjim@aol.com

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GLASS/SABINE
YOUR FINE HOMES SPECIALISTS

Just Listed!
A sparkling, light-filled 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home in a desirable Berkeley neighborhood. A short distance from Berkeley's famous Fourth Street and just around the corner from shops and eating establishments including the popular new Sea Salt restaurant.

In addition, the house features an entry hall, a large living/dining room with original built-ins, an eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms - one with an attached half-bath, a full bath, freshly painted interiors & exterior, other upgrades & improvements. The large backyard and newly built wood deck offer the best in indoor-outdoor living.

2427 Browning Street Berkeley
Offered at **\$625,000**
OPEN SUNDAY, February 12 from 2-4:30

Glass Sabine
Judith Glass 510.326.7929
Judith@GlassSabine.com

Sheila Sabine
510.326.5055
Sheila@GlassSabine.com

www.GlassSabine.com

JUST LISTED

Fabulous Bungalow - Like New!
Nestled on a tree lined street, this 3 bedroom and 2 bath home is in excellent condition. You'll find a living and dining room with high coved ceilings, warm inviting fireplace. Delight in the master bedroom with a walk-in closet, a retreat leading to a cozy garden, detached garage. 2 more bedrooms, another bath finish this home. Minutes to College Ave, parks, and transportation.

Rockridge/Lower \$749,000
444 62nd Street
Open Sunday 1-4

View a photo tour at www.anitabecker.com
Offered at \$749,000

Special Features:
• Upgraded foundation
• New dual pane windows throughout
• New kitchen and baths
• New central heat
• Refinished hardwood floors

Entertain, Laugh, Relax, Enjoy, Love, Live -- HOME

Anita Becker
Prudential California Realty
2095 Rose Street
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-868-1554

Prudential
California Realty

FEATURED HOMES

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-5 \$1,550,000
1754 Manzanita Drive. New price on dramatic, new 4BR/3.5BA construction w/bay view.
Leah Younger (510) 339-9290

EL CERRITO

Sunday 2-4:30 \$639,000
2732 Arlington. 3BR/1BA. Fabulous garden, view, mid-century beauty.
Candice/David (510) 868-1400

BERKELEY

Sunday 1-4 \$569,000
2204 Woolsey. Sunny 2BR, FDR, attic, deck, big lot near BART.
Ed Hartnett (510) 834-2010

EMERYVILLE

Sunday 1-4 \$388,000
30 Emery Bay. Remodeled unit in special complex. 2BR, fireplace.
Nancy Taussig (510) 845-0211

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,550,000
1754 Manzanita Drive. New price on dramatic, new 4BR/3.5BA construction w/bay view.
Leah Younger (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4:30 \$865,000
3375 Herrier - New Listing! Dazzling SF Bay views from stylish 3-bedroom traditional home.
Patricia Makinen (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$749,000
444 62nd St. 3BR/2BA, new kit/baths, fireplace, HWF, garage, Near College Ave.
Anita Becker (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$725,000
6615 Gunn Drive. Montclair 3BR/2BA Contemporary in wooded, Tahoe-like setting.
Dresser/Garfinkle (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$680,000
8009 Michigan Ave. Immaculate 3 BR/3BA, bright, deck, Bay views!!
CP Yang (510) 834-2010

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4:30 \$649,000
4520 Fairbairn, Oakland. Incredible views from pristine 3+BR mid-century.
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-5 \$649,000
354-360 Adams. 4-plex, all 1BR/1BA units, hardwood floors, garage, Adams Pt.
Bryan Salomone (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-5 \$519,000
745 45th St. 3BR/1BA updated ba, kitchen, HWF, deck, new appliances.
Meaza Testa (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-5 \$484,000
390 42nd St. Darling 2BR/1BA Temescal Craftsman bungalow. Big Price Reduction!
Lisa Friedman (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$479,000
4843 Fairfax Ave. 3BR/1BA Mediterranean. A perfect starter home.
Anita Becker (510) 868-1554

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$425,000
2100 65th Ave. Charming 2BR/1BA hwd floors, big corner lot, garage.
Richard Matus (510) 834-2010

OAKLAND

Sunday 1-4 \$329,000
7015 Orral St. Updated split-level 2+BR Barato.
Wertheimer/Diaz (510) 834-2010

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4:30 \$310,000
567 Oakland Ave. #307. Lovely 1BR Condo near Pied. Ave. Updated kitchen.
Vickie & Aleso (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-5 \$309,000
375 Jayne #104. Lg. 1BR, new paint, carpet, updated kit + bath. Patio.
John F. Bell (510) 834-2010

OAKLAND

Sunday 2-4 \$279,000
425 Orange St. #106. 1BR/1BA Condo. Sunny, close to everything.
David Pleasants (510) 868-1400

BERKELEY

Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,448,000
7112 Marlborough Terrace - Custom-built 3BR/3.5BA Mediterranean atop the desirable Claremont Hills.
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

BERKELEY

Sunday 2-4:30 \$639,000
1618 Cornell. Stylish, sparkling 3BR/2BA near shops, restaurants, BART.
Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900

BERKELEY

Sunday 2-4:30 \$625,000
2427 Browning. 3BR/1+BA. "Poet's Corner" traditional. Near shops. Fireplace, big backyard.
Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900

DUBLIN

Sunday 1-4 \$729,000
7548 Odyssey. Gorgeous like new 3BR + den, very nice!
Dennis Millard (510) 845-0211

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Sunday 2-4:30 \$419,000
444 39th St., Richmond. Charming 2BR Craftsman in N&E Richmond. Garden, potential studio.
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Picture Perfect \$740,000
Located in new Antioch development. 4 BR/3BA.
Charlotte (510) 276-2020 x 181

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Sunday 1-4 \$699,000
648 Rincon Rd., El Sobrante. 2700+ sq. ft. 3+BR/3BA, bonus rm. (4th BR), family room, 2 fireplaces, 2+ garage.
Arky Vasdekis (510) 845-0211

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Best Investment \$1,250,000
Fabulous 6 units close 2 BART & shops. All big 2BR/1BA w/garage.
Catherine Zhang (510) 527-9800

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Sunday 2-4 \$845,000
3238 Santa Clara. Great triplex in best location. 2 separate houses.
Catherine Zhang (510) 527-9800

RESIDENTIAL

Sunday 2-4 \$1,250,000
Large 2BR house w/formal dining room, hardwood floors, deck + 2 units w/ storage.
LeLa Logene Butler (510) 868-1400

RESIDENTIAL

Sunday 2-4 \$1,250,000
1255-57 77th Ave. Large duplex, down 2BR/1BA up, both w/fireplace.
Karon Martin (510) 868-1400

RESIDENTIAL

Sunday 2-4 \$1,250,000
El Cerrito
Unique duplex in commercial zone for income & business.
Catherine Zhang (510) 868-1400

RESIDENTIAL

Sunday 2-4 \$1,250,000
2 Lots overlooking Tilden Park. 2 sq. ft. - 2 lot 13,000 sq. ft.
Victoria Curtis (510) 868-1400

RESIDENTIAL

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FREE TRAILER
CALL KAREN 800-499-5555

ALAMEDA 510-337-8470 **BERKELEY REGIONAL** 510-868-1400 **CLAREMONT** 510-845-0211 **EL CERRITO** 510-339-9290 **EL SOBRANTE** 510-758-5637 **GRAND LAKES** 510-834-2010 **MONTCLAIR** 510-339-9290 **PUEBLO** 510-428-0900 **WILSON** 510-868-1400

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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B20

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This beautiful Craftsman by Leola Hall, enjoys a cul-de-sac location near shops and BART! There are three bedrooms, one and bath, formal dining room with original built-ins, eat-in kitchen, and sun room. The elegant redwood interior creates warmth and resonates with the exceptional artists that founded this community. A joy to see!
Offered at \$850,000



2806 Stuart Street, Berkeley

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BEBE McRAE
Office: 510.652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com

open sunday

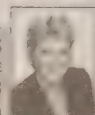
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. It doesn't get any better for this price and location in the Piedmont side of Montclair. All level with garden, patios and partial Bay view. Three bedroom, two bath. Sun drenched in the afternoon with beautiful sunsets. Just steps to Montclair Village.
NEW PRICE! \$695,000



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DEBRA J. DRYDEN, CRS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
Office: 510.339.0400/208
dryden@grubbco.com



MONTCLAIR



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510.339.4000



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PATRICIA BENNETT



KEN NWOKEDI



MARY JANE MCCONVILLE



WILBERT ROSS



KAREN MAI



EARLE SHENK



ROBERT SCOTT



MARTHA HILL



LILA OWENS



MICHAEL THOMPSON
MANAGING BROKER

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MONTCLAIR



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Oakland, CA 94611

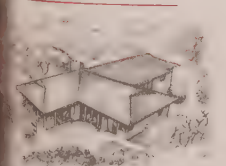
510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.

Oakland, CA 94602

510.339.4000

OPEN HOMES



BERKELEY 15 GYPSY LANE \$1,200,000

Spacious 1955 4bd/3ba contemporary w/ walls of glass and spectacular bay and SF view from every room. Over 1/2 acre. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

See photo tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



MONTCLAIR 2220 Arrowhead Drive \$1,150,000

Spacious New 3+bd/4.5ba Construction in Montclair Hills. Open layout w/ vaulted ceilings, FLR & FDR, gourmet kitchen, & family rm. Patios & decks for in/out entertaining. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

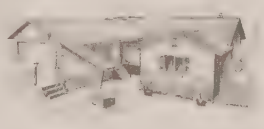
See photo tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



MONTCLAIR 8008 BROADWAY TERRACE \$995,000

Custom built 4bd/2.5ba w/ the finest materials. Elegant traditional w/ modern conveniences. Exceptional yard and picturesque European views. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550



REDWOOD HEIGHTS 3203 MONTEREY BLVD \$899,000

Just listed - Enjoy spectacular sunsets from this spacious contemporary gem! Vaulted ceiling, new kitchen and park-like back yard. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

See photo tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000



ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) 5111 PROCTOR AVENUE \$799,000

Built and owned by one family since 1949, this 3+++bd/3ba has plenty of space & potential. Eat-in kitchen, master suite and family rm w/ fireplace & French Doors to garden. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

Michael Thompson 339.8400~339.5775



ROCKRIDGE 5334 BROADWAY \$795,000

Charming 3+bd/1+ba craftsman in Oakland's wonderful Rockridge district. Finished basement, updated kitchen & bath, refinished hwd flrs, new carpet and landscaping. OPEN SUN 2-4:30

Tom Watson 339.8400~899.6364

OAK KNOLL \$615,000

3425 MIRASOL AVENUE 3bd/2ba home in desirable Oak Knoll area. Formal living rm w/ fireplace, FDR, Beautiful hwd flrs thruout, new int. paint, laundry rm & 2-car garage. OPEN SUN 2-4:00

Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119

RICHMOND \$499,000

3124 FLORIDA AVENUE Brand new 2-story home on quiet cul-de-sac. 3bd/2.5ba w/ Master suite. Tiled kitch w/ granite counters & oak cabinets. Laundry rm

OPEN SUN 2-4:00 Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~899.5119



RICHMOND \$475,000

2553 GROVEVIEW DRIVE Lovely 3bd/2.5ba townhome. Upgrades incl: custom colors, faux-wood flrs, tile, stainless steel appliances, newer washer & dryer, mature landscaping, 2 lg patios & 2 car garage.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30

Kimberly Gates 339.8400~339.5770

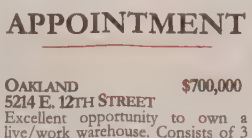


MAXWELL PARK \$470,000

3015 KINGSLAND AVE A great opportunity at a great price. This 1920's home offers 3 bed rms, formal dining room, spacious open kitchen and partial bay view.

OPEN SUN 2-4:30

Sandy Spring 339.8400~899.6226



OAKLAND \$700,000

5214 E. 12TH STREET Excellent opportunity to own a live/work warehouse. Consists of 3 offices or bedrooms, a tall roll up door, large garage/shop space, full kitch. 1.5ba.

Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119



NORTH BERKELEY \$1,095,000

180 TAMALPAIS 1st time on the market since built in 1926. Stunning living room w/ beamed ceiling stenciled w/ lines of a poem. Spectacular bay views.

Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776



MONTCLAIR \$1,075,000

2060 MANZANITA Soaring ceilings & windows beautifully frame both bay and Mt Diablo views. 4 bd/4ba, inc luxurious custom master bath, family rm, FDR + lg rec. room.

Mary Jane McConville 510.339.4280

Photo tour @ www.MaryJaneMcConville.com



KENSINGTON \$769,000

256 LOS ALTOS DRIVE Located in Kensington next to Tilden Park. 2+bd/2ba including a master bedroom. + room can be used as a study or third bedroom.

BY APPOINTMENT

Photos at: www.256LosAltosDrive.com

Michael Garza 339.8400~899.6368



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$729,000

3414 GUIDO STREET Stunning remodel of Spanish home on cul de sac known as "The Lane in Spain." 3bedrooms + studio w/ loft.

Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776

OAKLAND \$649,000

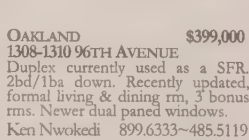
3058 MACARTHUR BLVD Very nice & clean duplex. Painted inside and out, very gd condition, close to shops & transportation.

A.D. Nassiri 339.4000~899.6313

OAKLAND \$619,000

3251 FLORIDA STREET Beautiful and charming 3bd/2ba house in a very quiet neighborhood. House is in very good condition and ready for move-in.

A.D. Nassiri 339.4000~899.6313



OAKLAND \$399,000

1308-1310 96TH AVENUE Duplex currently used as a SFR. 2bd/1ba down. Recently updated, formal living & dining rm, 3 bonus rms. Newer dual paned windows.

Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$699,000

Sweet and bright 3+bd/2ba home with huge park-like yard. All new electrical, gleaming hardwood and spacious rumorm room.

PatriciaBennett.com 339.8400~482.9000

LOWER MAXWELL PARK \$499,999

4547 SAN CARLOS AVENUE Recently updated 3bd/1ba w/ gorgeous hwd flrs. Formal living rm w/ fireplace. Formal dining rm, spacious kitch & sunny breakfast nook.

Ganice Morgan Austin 899.6395~485.5119



OAKLAND \$425,000

4715 TO 4717 FOOTHILL BLVD. 2 commercial spaces/store fronts. 4715 is currently leased as a barber/beauty salon. 4717 was used as a restaurant. Great location.

Ken Nwokedi 339.4000~485.5119

COMMERCIAL

Are You Newly Licensed?

We have the vision to see your success and the ability to make it happen. Call Michael Thompson at (510)339-5775 for a private interview.

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Check out recent home sales prices;
see page D4 in the Auto section

RECENTLY SOLD

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

5712 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

Dian Hymer represented the buyer in the sale of this 4 bedroom Claremont Pines view home.

OFFERED AT
\$1,649,000



DIAN HYMER, CRS
Associate Broker
Previews Property Specialist
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Photo Tours At: dianhymer.com

NEW LISTING

1168 CAMINO VALLECITO, LAFAYETTE

OPEN SUN 1-5



Offered at \$2,699,500



Jerilyn Babington
510-547-1615
510-421-3500
925-253-4601
925-212-9228



www.discriminatinghomes.com

Spectacular Happy Valley Estate on approx. 1+ acs. Lafayette hilltop setting with breathtaking views. Quiet, private property has apx. 5,200 SF, light, bright rooms w/ walls of glass, 6 brs, 4.5 bths. Glorious chef's eat-in kit w/ top of the line appliances. 2 lux. master suites, large family room, swimming pool. Close to top-rated schools. An entertainer's delight!

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This lovely Spanish Mediterranean home is located on a prestigious Lincoln Heights cul-de-sac. Lovely formal living and dining rooms with gleaming hardwood floors. Updated eat-in kitchen. Two bedrooms, one + baths, lovely gardens and sunny family room which levels out to a large deck.

Offered at \$725,000



2435 Burlington Street
Oakland

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Office: 510.339.0400/242
smichaelides@grubbco.com



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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

On a quiet cul-de-sac, this spacious, redesigned contemporary has it all. Ideal for entertaining, it boasts three+ bedrooms, two baths and a chef's kitchen. A big bonus room, double garage with interior access and terraced gardens complete the perfect picture. Convenient location!
Offered at \$659,000



17 Whittle Court, Oakland



MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
510.339.0400/265
mfriedmsn@grubbco.com

HOPE BRODERICK
510.339.0400/232
hbroderick@grubbco.com

8008 Broadway Terrace, Montclair
Open Sunday 2-4:30pm

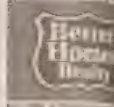


Surrounded by picturesque European hillside views, this exceptionally spacious 4bedroom, 2.5bathroom Montclair custom built contemporary offers the best of both family living and entertaining. The home is complimented by an open floor plan, multiple windows, hardwood floors, and traditional detailing throughout. Enjoy indoor/outdoor entertaining with upper and lower decks, and huge landscaped yards! Great location close to Montclair restaurants and shops and easy SF commute.

Asking Price \$995,000

Visit my website at www.NahidNassiri.com

MONTCLAIR



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Open Homes



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(510) 527.2700

1500 FARMHOUSE AVENUE
El Cerrito CA 94530
(510) 527.9111

289 Arlington Avenue,
Kensington CA 94707
(510) 524.0800

44 W RICHMOND AVENUE
P.O. RICHMOND CA 94801
(510) 332.1640



Richmond Annex \$869,000
Virtually a New Home! Spectacular two-story Art Deco-style home is conveniently located near BART, E.C. Plaza & Pacific East Mall. Can be 5BR/3BA or 3BR/2BA upstairs with 2BR/1BA legal rental unit downstairs. Top-quality workmanship, high-end appliances and fixtures. Landscaped yard, deck.
5919 Van Fleet St.
Herman Sun
Open Sun 2-4
527-9111



El Cerrito \$690,000
Wonderful and much-loved 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in a great location. Refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint inside and out, excellent move-in condition. Huge lot with patios and hillside. Must see.

7436 Potrero Ave.
Jean Shrem & Marni Fischer
Open Sun 2-4
527-9111



El Cerrito \$589,000
Adorable! Very special Mediterranean split-level. Lovingly cared for and meticulously updated. Dual pane windows, beautiful hardwood floors. Two bedrooms, 1.5 baths PLUS a warm family room overlooking an inviting backyard w/ fish pond and fruit trees. You'll love it!

5725 Alta Punta
Alice McLeish

Open Sun 2-4
527-2700 x 35



Berkeley \$735,000
Pretty 1922 Traditional in N. Berkeley Hills. Three spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, fenced courtyard. Features include matchstick hardwood floors, built-ins, open floor plan, French doors. Sunny upgraded kitchen, remodeled baths, living room with marble-surround fireplace and beautiful bay window.
940 Regal Rd.
Ron Egberman & Todd Hodson
Open Sun 2-4:30
524-0800



Richmond Annex \$465,000
Great opportunity to move into the ever-popular Richmond Annex. Convenient, comfortable and affordable 2 bedroom, 1 bath home. Large lot with sweet yard, detached garage, and extra storage. Move-in condition.

1522 Merced St.
Mary Gray & Mykah Larkins
Contact Agent
527-9111



Pinole \$495,000
Private townhome location! Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome in small development. Wall-to-wall carpeting throughout. Family room overlooks a nature setting. Enjoy 1,800 sq. ft. of living space that includes a master bedroom suite. Two-car garage with interior access.

626 Primrose Terr.
Darrell Hoh

Open Sun 2-4
524-0800



Berkeley \$699,000
Very special split-level charmer. Spacious 2BR/1.5 bath floor plan for entertaining - large kitchen adjoining family room with French doors to a deck. Huge living room with fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors. Remodeled bath with tiles! Attached garage plus long driveway
1309 Hopkins St.
Alice McLeish
Open Sun
527-2700



Glenview \$699,000
A wonderful home on a quiet tree-lined street. Excellent condition! Spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath with basement area. Visit this home @ www.kathieberg.com

3823 Randolph Ave.
Kathie Berg
Open Sun
527-2700



Richmond N&E \$499,000
1927 cottage with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, and features including: hipped roof, new interior exterior paint, ribbon hardwood floors, fireplace, living room, and built-in dining room cabinets. Spacious kitchen with eat-in area. Detached large level landscaped lot, mature trees.

3527 Cerrito Ave.
Darrell Hoh

Open Sun
527-2700

For more information about these properties visit www.marvingardens.com

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JUST LISTED OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



347 WAYNE AVENUE

Enjoy a spectacular Lake Merritt and Oakland cityscape view from this elegant and sophisticated condo with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. The master suite has a marble tiled bath, gas log fireplace and jet tub niche.

OFFERED AT \$849,000

349 WAYNE AVENUE

Experience urban living in this cozy condo, ideal for everyday living or used as the weekend getaway to the City. Living and dining areas have an open floor plan. There is a spacious bedroom and tiled bath.

OFFERED AT \$289,000



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Certified Residential Specialist
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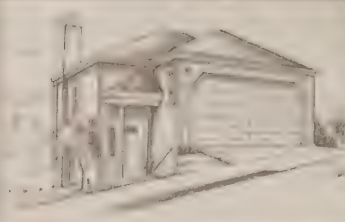
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00 PM



4379 TERRABELLA PLACE

Lovely home with three bedrooms, two and one-half baths sited in the Oakland Hills above Redwood Heights. Features include an exceptional chef's kitchen with cherry cabinetry, granite counters, Viking range, and much more.

OFFERED AT
\$769,000



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415.704.1045
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www.moves.com/becky.andersen

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



MONTCLAIR BEAUTY WITH A VIEW

5491 COLTON BLVD.
OAKLAND

This striking 3-bedroom 2 1/2 bath home boasts beautifully updated kitchen & bathrooms, view of San Francisco Bay, gleaming hardwood floors, an open spacious floor plan & a family room that opens up onto an inviting patio. All of this combined with its location close to the shops of Montclair make it unique and special.

OFFERED AT
\$1,050,000



Terry Kulka
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300 Houses Sold - Experience Counts

NEW LISTING!

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM



4637 FIELDBROOK ROAD, OAKLAND

Shutter-accented windows & brick walkway, enjoy this charming traditional. Naturally lit interiors. Hardwood floors. Lovely garden views. 2+ bedrooms, 1++ baths. Den on lower level. Cul-de-sac. Close to Highway 13 & retail.

\$635,000



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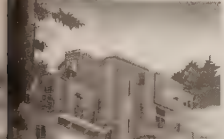
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FAYETTE \$2,975,000
5775 Natasha Dr. Sun 2 - 4
3 BR 5 BA Modern Craftsman.
Sign by J Wright. Pool, over .5 acre
www.4007Natasha.com
Marienthal 510.486.1495



ALAMEDA \$2,100,000
1567 Central Ave. Sun 1 - 4
3 BR 5 BA Mission Revival Residence
with Theater w/ stage & auditorium.
Absolutely Stunning!
Bara Arechiga 510.486.1495

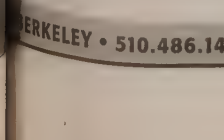
MONTCLAIR \$1,570,000
1977 Camino Lenada Sat & Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 3 BA Timeless quality of pride is
reflected magnificently in this brand
new contemporary.
Joey and Neal Robinson 510.339.4700



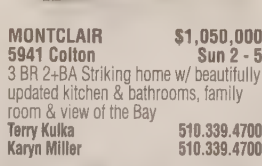
MONTCLAIR \$1,425,000
100 Arrowhead Dr Sat/Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA High-end finish-work,
Marble Kitch, formal Living Room &
Dining Room.
Lancaster 510.339.4700



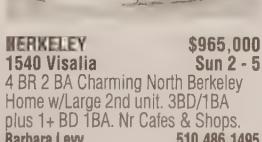
MONTCLAIR \$1,160,000
1555 Solente Road Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA Fabulous newer home
with high end finish work.
Linda Bowman 510.339.4700



MONTCLAIR \$1,050,000
5941 Colton Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2+BA Striking home w/ beautifully
updated kitchen & bathrooms, family
room & view of the Bay
Terry Kulka 510.339.4700
Karyn Miller 510.339.4700



BERKELEY \$965,000
1540 Visalia Sun 2 - 5
4 BR 2 BA Charming North Berkeley
Home w/ Large 2nd unit. 3BD/1BA
plus 1+ BD 1BA. Nr Cafes & Shops.
Barbara Levy 510.486.1495



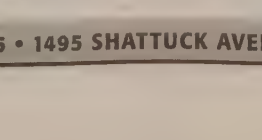
LAKE MERRIT \$849,000
347 Wayne Ave Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 3 BA City scape view. Condo,
Master with tub niche, Gas FRPL,
Marble Bath.
Nancy Dickey 510.339.4700



OAKLAND HILLS \$769,000
4379 Terrabella Place Sun 1-4
3BR 2.5BA Views of San Francisco and
the Golden Gate await from this lovely home.
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700



ALBANY \$720,000
1431 Washington Sun 1 - 4
3 BR 1 BA Enchanting Tudor in ideal
location. Formal dining room, large
eat-in kitchen, great yard!
Marilyn Garcia 510.486.1495



EL CERRITO \$695,000
1732 Julian Ct. Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2 BA UNSURPASSED VIEWS
from this CLASSIC MID CENTURY
home! Huge Lot, pics @
www.nanscape.com.
Nancy Reichert 510.486.1495



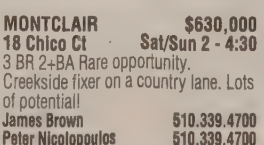
LAUREL UPPER \$669,000
4250 Maple Ave Sat/Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Laurel Upper-Traditional;
1939 Charm. HWF, FDR, Fam Rm,
Inviting front patio, garden
CJ Boydston 510.339.4700
Ruby Ng 510.339.4700



NORTH OAKLAND \$649,000
884-886 Arlington Sun 2 - 4:30
North Oakland Duplex! Upstairs is a 2
bedroom 1 bath. Downstairs has a 1
plus bdrm 1 ba.
Noni Robinson & James Brown 510.339.4700



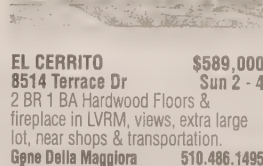
PT. RICHMOND \$649,000
77 Vine Ave. Sun 2 - 4
2 BR 2 BA Light filled home with great
Bay views. Updated Kitchen. Dining
room. Yard with decks.
Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



OAKLAND HILLS \$635,000
4637 Fieldbrook Rd Sun 2 - 4:30
2+BR 1++BA, NEW LIST! Sunny
traditional on cul-de-sac. HWF.
Garden views.
Karen Lum & Liat Bostick 510.339.4700



EL CERRITO \$589,000
8514 Terrace Dr Sun 2 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Hardwood Floors &
fireplace in LVRM, views, extra large
lot, near shops & transportation.
Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495



EMERYVILLE \$569,000
4026 West St Sun 1:30 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Emeryville border. 1600 sq
ft condo. Remod vintage beauty. SF,
bridge views, garage, more!
Catherine Varnau 510.486.1495

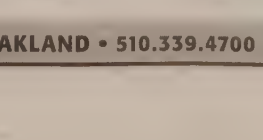


JOAQUIN/MILLER \$549,000
3280 Butters Drive Sat 2-4:30/Sun 1 - 5
2 BR 1.5 BA Views! Charming cottage
on oak studded view lot w/2br 1+ba
Built-ins, EIK, wd flrs. Cute!
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$539,000
2846 Morgan Ave. Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 1 BA Period Detail/Character
Intact, forml Dine & Bkfst Nook, Blt-
Ins, Hardwoods, FP, Gardn, Gar
Rachel Baller 510.339.4700

EMERYVILLE BORDER \$479,000
687 39th Sat/Sun 1-4
2+ bedroom 1 bath.
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700



MONTCLAIR \$448,000
6758 Saroni Sat/Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA, Montclair fixer with good
bones and room for expansion. Large
lot. Location, location, location.
Leslie Wei 510.339.4700

LAUREL \$370,000
3489 Midvale #3 Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Bright 2nd floor unit in
Laurel. Only available to view during
open houses.
Kelley Nayo-Client 510.339.4700

DOWNTOWN OAKLAND \$325,000-\$375,000
619 22nd St Sat/Sun 2 - 4:30
4 condos rebuilt & signficantly
remodeled. Crpt, Bamboo & Travertine
flrs, SS appliances/granite in kil
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

LAKE MERRIT \$289,000
349 Wayne Ave Sun 2 - 4:30
1 BR 1 BA Lake Merrit Location.
Condo. Open Living/Dining Area. Sep.
Entry. Very Sweet.
Nancy Dickey 510.339.4700

ADAMS POINT \$275,000
425 Orange #206 Sun 2-4:30
A wonderful one bedroom one bath
spacious condo with lots of freshness.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

By Appointment

BERKELEY HILLS \$3,075,000
Unique Home
3 BR 3 BA Asian Craftsman fusion. LV
rm w/cathedral ceilings, splendid
grounds, gym, Bay & GG views.
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



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Bright, inviting in-home gyms welcome more workouts

BY DEBRA D. BASS
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

There's probably no such thing as a French country home gym. Any decorating scheme that includes free weights and machinery that plugs into the wall is going to thwart traditional interior design classifications, but that's no excuse for people to ignore the benefits of a well-designed workout area.

You can't expect results by just tossing a treadmill and weight bench haphazardly into a room. If you're not exercising regularly already, proximity to equipment is not your biggest obstacle. Motivation is the problem. And that means you need to create a space that's convenient, inspiring and inviting.

The biggest reason that home gyms fail is arguably design. Don't laugh — a home gym is not a build-it-and-you-will-work-out proposition. People have to be careful to choose the right equipment, the right location and the right decorating scheme.

"It's not just a matter of equipment," says Rick Viehland of The Fitness Store, in the St. Louis re-

gion. "You have to create a comfortable space where you actually want to go and hang out."

Viehland says that lighting is one of the biggest issues people forget about when it comes to making workout spaces appealing. Track lighting and recessed ceiling lights are a workout room's best friend. This inexpensive fix helps to create a warm atmosphere that will inspire visitors to keep coming back. Drab environments dampen enthusiasm.

An ideal spot for a workout room would involve a window with natural light, but a finished basement with an adequate lighting system is a great alternative.

In her basement, Lynne Talan of Creve Coeur, Mo., has a home gym that is so attractive friends want her to make it a club.

"The big joke with my friends is that they come over and ask how can they get a membership," she says.

Her husband, Manne (pronounced man-e), coaches three youth sports teams and uses the gym daily. There's even an adjacent room lined with Astroturf that's used

for batting practice and a children's play area.

The gym has a commercial rubber floor and is fully stocked with a barre for ballet, a full contingent of free weights and a nicely appointed minigym of cardio and weight machines. There's also a television and sound system.

Motivational posters dot the walls, encouraging perseverance, strength and enthusiasm.

"Some days you need all the help you can get," says Talan, who works out with a friend and enlists a personal trainer who makes house calls.

The Talans had the help of a professional to stock the gym, and Lynne Talan advises that anyone looking to make the investment do the same.

"You don't need everything," she says. "You need what you can use."

Family gym

The Sansones have a family gym that would earn them a high-five from a professional athletics team. An atypical grandmother of 38 (no, that's not a misprint), Mary Anne Sansone came up with the edges and undermount sinks can add to the final price tag, an upgraded laminate top still leaves plenty of room in the budget, compared to other materials.

In terms of how laminate countertops broadly compare to other materials from a pricing perspective, several guides are available on the Internet. One major consumer magazine's Web site reports these figures for various countertop options:

- Pre-fabricated laminate top from a home center (uninstalled), \$20/linear foot.

- Basic installed laminate top, \$35/linear foot.

- Installed laminate with a custom edge, \$65/linear foot.

- Solid surfacing, simple installation, common colors, \$100/linear foot.

- Solid surfacing, custom edges with solid surface sink, \$200/linear foot.

- Imported marble, \$300/linear foot.

- Stainless Steel, \$150 to \$750/linear foot.

For homeowners seeking the most value-packed combination of visual style, easy maintenance, durability and low price, laminate remains the top choice.

Contact Nevamar at 800-638-4380 or www.nevamar.com.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW: The Sansone's two-story gym seen from above.

idea of a family gymnasium, and her fitness-obsessed husband, Anthony Sansone, was quick to agree. So the couple built a two-story gym addition onto their home seven years ago. The gym is so fully equipped that a family friend who was once crowned the strongest man in the world comes over to work out.

"We're a large family, and everyone is really into fitness, so it seemed perfect to give everyone a place to get together and stay healthy," says Mary Anne Sansone, the mother of eight and grandmother to 19 grandsons and 19 granddaughters. She explains that she's been exercising regularly for about 60 years and that her husband is equally dedicated to fitness. They lead by example.

Anthony Sansone goes down to the gym to work out just as often as he goes in to oversee training and talk over the family real estate business with his children. But Mary

Anne Sansone doesn't use the equipment in the main gym. She actually has a separate area for Pilates and strength training on the second floor in a wing that connects to her bedroom. The balcony of her workout room overlooks the main gym.

"I'm somewhat of a loner," she explains, notwithstanding the fact that she has 52 people in her immediate family.

Sansone says that it's not unusual to look outside and see a dozen cars, and it thrills her. Because the addition is separated from the main house by a breezeway and has a separate entrance and separate alarm system, visitors to the gym don't have to worry about disturbing anyone in the house.

There is a small juice bar-style kitchen, a sound system, special flooring for heavy lifting, a neutral wall color, a wall of mirrors for weightlifters and a two-story wall of

windows. There are a few art of charcoal drawings expressing human form, as well as the anatomy anatomy charts on the

"We did it for them to see they can do whatever they want as long as they take care of it," thony Sansone says. A few years earlier, he was chiding one of his sons for leaving the lights on

Sansone was 51 when he graduated from law school — "was so staying healthy and active been particularly important to

Part of the beauty of the gym that the family monitors and tains it. And, yes, some people been locked out for a week for breaking the maintenance.

Jim and Kathryn Sansone have 10 children ages 3 months to 17 years and who live within walking distance, are regular gym, even though they live

See GYM, Page B15

Laminate

FROM PAGE B8

qualities of their designs."

Hybrid Slate from Nevamar, for example, is not a photographic reproduction of stone, but a much more sophisticated blend of veining, coloration and scale that give it a rich, elegant effect. It's a perfect companion for stainless steel appliances, and it complements the visual tones of today's cabinetry.

Once you've determined your favorite laminate design, fabricator Jack Bergman of BB Countertops in Colorado Springs recommends you take some time to think about the various ways to edge the top. "The edge," he says, "gives you options — to upgrade the countertop's look, to integrate it with the backsplash, to integrate it into the cabinet scheme, or to set the counter off as a design element all its own. Starting with the conventional self-edge, people are now looking at adding a custom twist by using metal, or laminate in a different color."

It gets more interesting from there. You can make postformed edges by wrapping the laminate down the front of the top. If you don't want to see the 'dark line' along the edge of traditional countertops, you can use a beveled edge, which, when combined with a stone-design laminate, delivers the impact of more expensive granite or marble.

"Many people like to use the beveled portion of the edge as an accent stripe — a green bevel on a white top, for example. This can tie in any other color from the room's scheme, and it's great for the elderly or visual-impaired homeowner, making it easier to

gauge the edge of the counter as they approach it," says Bergman.

With laminate, you know what you're getting

Another plus offered by laminate — you don't have to worry about the unpredictable visual variation that comes with granite and marble. "The furniture industry calls it 'Nature's Touch' when a consumer complains about variation in a woodgrain dresser, for example. It's the same with natural stone — except by the time you've installed a countertop in someone's kitchen, it's too late — the homeowner is stuck with it," says Eisenberg.

"There's a consistency and reliability about laminate countertops that appeals to a lot of people — you know what you're getting," Eisenberg recommends that consumers look at large samples of any countertop they are considering. "You can also visit the Nevamar Web site (www.nevamar.com), to view their laminate patterns in a 4 foot by 8 foot sheet format. There's no way you'll get an unfortunate surprise after that," she adds.

Competitive pricing

Laminate has always enjoyed a position at the bargain end of the cost spectrum. While special

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Michael Mandell, Caldecott Properties, 510.594.2400

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* 6.405% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$417,000 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. 10/1 adjustable rate mortgage is fixed for the first 10 years and then adjusted to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$417,000 is approximately \$2,467, subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Homeowners insurance required.
** 5.561% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$417,000 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$3,380. Homeowners insurance required.
*** 6.110% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$2,598. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of 2/7/06 are subject to change without notice.

JUST LISTED

IDEAL ALBANY LOCATION.

1431 WASHINGTON, ALBANY

This enchanting three bedroom Tudor has a truly elegant living room with beautiful architectural details. Formal dining room. Spacious and sunny eat-in kitchen. Great yard. Fantastic location, close to shops, restaurants, parks and schools. Don't miss it!

OFFERED AT \$720,000

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\$549,000



Approaching the foothills of Oakland you'll embark upon a "Y" in the road, here perched high over a full finished basement and double car garage is this magnificent residence built in 1928, the era of the "Great Depression", an assemblage of home sizes, yet the craftsmanship of the tradesmen remained at its highest level of quality, significant undisputed here. Overlooking its surroundings for miles around, it is told that the traditional fireworks bring on an awesome sight! This home's artistic collections reflect subdued elegance by its implementation of sculptured arched walls and ceilings, an abundance of picture windows flooding in the all day's natural light. Within 1,454 sq. ft. of space consisting of six rooms featuring the formality room, displaying a commanding tile facade wood burning fireplace with its lush mantel and delicate lights providing a mood to entertain by. The home's two bedrooms elevated at the home include the master suite containing two large closets, an all new bathroom plus an additional downstairs commode. The country kitchen and connecting breakfast room featuring window bay and built-in built-in, a cheer atmosphere guaranteeing to put more cheer in your morning's cheery "O". Ms. "Sam" McDowell (510) 521-6917

Sam McDowell (510) 521-6917

ym

PAGE B14
but well-equipped gym at
Over the years, Jim and
of his siblings have added
to the family gym to ac-
commodate the needs of nieces
and nephews adhering to sports
regimens.
great, because you never
know who you're going to run into
gym... maybe my brother or
sister or niece," says Jim San-
son. "That's the real luxury of hav-
ing something like this."

Younger children must be ac-
companied by an adult to enter the
gym, and no one handles weights
until they are at least 13. There are
about 20 pieces of equipment and
a full range of weights, so there is
something for every appropriate
age group and something to ac-
commodate a wide range of
strength- and cardio-training activi-
ties.

when. But the front of the binder
reads "The Iron Cellar."
"Yeah, I noticed the other day
that it seems to have another
name," she said, expressing
amusement. "I don't know about
that, but I'm glad that the room has
accomplished what I wanted it to
do."

Getting started

OK, so maybe you think "gym"
is too big a word for your home fit-
ness space.
To set the record straight, a
home gym can range from a sim-
ple rug that resides on the living

room floor for yoga workouts to an
extravagant Sansone-esque family
setup that incorporates enough ma-
chinery to satisfy a pro football
team.
Bottom line: If you aren't exer-
cising regularly now, your biggest
obstacle is you. So start small.
During an interview, Jack
LaLanne, the godfather of fitness,
once instructed a reporter who told
him that he didn't exercise often to
stand up, then sit down and stand
up again. That's exercise, he said.
Fancy equipment is shiny and fun,
but when you get down to the ba-
sics, the only thing you need to ex-

ercise is staring at you in the mir-
ror.
But fitness experts will tell you
that better results will emerge if you
have a dedicated space for exer-
cise activities.
If space is at a premium, con-
sider a heavy-duty exercise mat,
some exercise videos and some
free weights that you store in a big
basket in the living room. Baskets
are wonderful storage tools, be-
cause the minute you fill them, the
contents look interesting. Don't ask
us why, but it's true.
If the mat doesn't roll up easily,
tuck it behind the couch or in a

closet when it's not in use. But be
SeeGYM, Page B16

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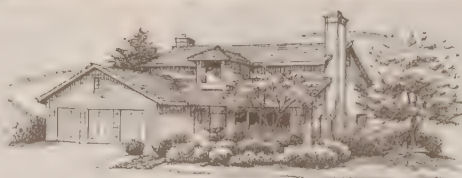
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2 homes on 1 lot. 1- 3BR/3BA & 1- 2BR/2BA. The 3BR/3BA is a beautifully built 2462 sq. ft. home on corner lot w/ fine details. Large living room, hardwood floors, & custom kitchen with new appliances & stone flooring. Second home with 2BR/2BA. Is approx. 960 sq. ft.

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3BR/2BA. One story corner lot home with views of the bay. Great neighborhood and close to transportation. Priced to sell.

100 Skelly
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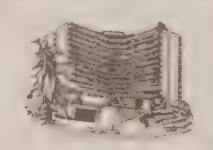


Alameda
\$589,000 **Soon**
2+BR/1BA. Coming soon! Darling Craftsman w/ gorgeous light, built-ins & hardwood floors. The house also has an enormous useable basement, garage, a sweet backyard and it is near the best Alameda has to offer.
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Walnut Creek
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Gym

FROM PAGE B15

careful with arrangements such as this. When you commit to a system that requires setup and cleanup before and after each use, you are adding an obstacle to working out. Look around first. You may have

more room than you think. If your home includes a guest room or sitting room that rarely hosts visitors, you may want to rethink your priorities for that space.

Home gym checklist

Location: People tend to put a gym in the most unattractive area of the home. Equipment is piled into a damp basement or drafty garage or crammed into an already over-

populated bedroom or home office. Wherever you place it, make the space comfortable.

Equipment: Ask for advice from a professional, and test equipment before you invest in big pieces. If you don't have any idea what to buy, a trial membership at a local gym should help you figure out which equipment is most appealing. Think about what you want to accomplish, and develop a work-

out routine with your equipment in mind before you buy. Depending on your goals and preferences, a treadmill might make more sense than free weights or vice versa. Maybe you just need a set of videos, a step and a heavy exercise mat.

Temperature: Adding an electric fan is probably a good idea. If the room gets too hot or cold or is tucked into a humid region of the

basement, what are the odds that you're going to trek down there three to four times a week for exercise.

Lighting: More is better. Create zones or install dimmers so that you can adjust the lighting easily.


Art: Anatomy charts and motivational posters are fine, but you may just need a corkboard to hold exercise charts and notes (and maybe clever little workouts from

magazines and Posters of sporting people you aspire to be are also a good option.

Entertainment: Running and hoisting weights can be monotonous, so find ways to make the experience interesting. People respond to their favorite music, for example.

See GYM, Page B16

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RED OAK REALTY | Homes Open Sunday

To sign up for daily email updates or for other Real Estate information, visit www.redoakrealty.com.



ALBANY - NEW! \$769,500
4/2 - Fabulous Albany hill home on a cul-de-sac with views. Hardwood floors, garden, close to BART & shopping, Albany schools.
715 Gateview Avenue Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY - NEW! \$1,695,000
4+3 - Fabulous 3,500 sq.ft. mid-century on a .49 acre secluded lot. Just refurbished! View a photo tour at www.heidiandjerry.com.
69 Parnassus Road Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$879,000
4/3 - Haddon Hill Traditional with large, sunny rooms & views of the lake. Well-maintained and smartly upgraded. Au pair suite.
563 Radnor Road Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$640,000
2/1 - Mediterranean charmer with hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, hot tub, new windows. Close to Piedmont Avenue shops.
4521 Pleasant Valley Court Open 2-4



EL CERRITO HILLS - NEW! \$825,000
5/2 - Cosmetic fixer in gorgeous, private setting on a mostly level 1/4 acre usable lot. More information at www.bobblumberg.com.
1230 Contra Costa Drive Open 2-5



BERKELEY - NEW! \$599,000
2/2 - Amazing freestanding townhome in the heart of Berkeley. Fireplace, 2 patios, garden, private parking, vaulted ceilings & more!
1149 Hearst Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$529,000
2+1+ - Bungalow with hardwood floors, beamed ceilings, updated kitchen, 2 fireplaces. Close to Grand & Piedmont Avenues.
624 Oakland Avenue Open 1-4



OAKLAND \$456,000+ each
4 TOWNHOMES - Newly constructed duet-style three-story, 3-bedroom units with open kitchen plan and private, fenced backyard.
3224-3232 Linden Street Open 2-4



KENSINGTON \$749,900
3/2 - Lovely home with eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, formal dining room, designer colors. Near the village & coveted Hilltop school.
205 Trinity Avenue Open 1-4:30



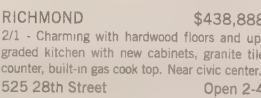
BERKELEY \$685,000
DUPLEX - 2+1 townhouse style units in central Berkeley. Decks & yard space. Close to farmers market, downtown shops and restaurants.
2441-2443 McKinley Avenue Open 2-4



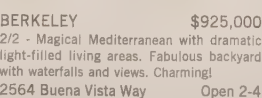
OAKLAND - NEW! \$585,000
4/2 - Lovely & spacious Craftsman in great location. Move-in condition! Inviting yard and vegetable garden complete this home.
649 61st Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$322,000
STUDIO - Jazzy studio in warehouse conversion has remodeled kitchen & bath. Masonry walls, polished concrete floors, secure parking.
730 29th Street #109 Open 2-4



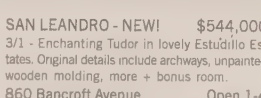
RICHMOND \$438,888
2/1 - Charming with hardwood floors and upgraded kitchen with new cabinets, granite tile counter, built-in gas cook top. Near civic center.
525 28th Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$925,000
2/2 - Magical Mediterranean with dramatic light-filled living areas. Fabulous backyard with waterfalls and views. Charming!
2564 Buena Vista Way Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$149,000
COMMERCIAL CONDO - Approx. 700 sq.ft. with sink and storage room, secure parking. Photo tour at www.saragarabedian.com.
730 29th Street #112 Open 2-4



SAN LEANDRO - NEW! \$544,000
3/1 - Enchanting Tudor in lovely Estuillo Estates. Original details include archways, unpainted wooden molding, more + bonus room.
860 Bancroft Avenue Open 1-4

[february 12th]

CONGRATULATIONS TO RED OAK REALTY'S TOP PRODUCERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2006!

Top Team Producers: MARK & KATIE LEDERER

1891 Solano Avenue: SARA GARABEDIAN

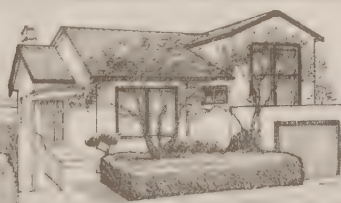


2099 Pleasant Valley Avenue: DAVID VALDEZ

2983 College Avenue: CHARLIE COOK

RED OAK REALTY

Albany Hill Charmer



716 GATEVIEW AVENUE, ALBANY

This fabulous Albany Hill 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has a spacious versatile floorplan with hardwood floors, new water heater & dual pane windows. Situated on a cul-de-sac with absolutely killer views & a delightfully serene garden. Interior & separate entry to downstairs level, walk to BART, near shopping & dog park. Albany schools!

LISTED AT \$769,500

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624 OAKLAND AVENUE, OAKLAND

This charming 2+ bedroom, 1+ bath bungalow features beamed ceilings, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, an updated kitchen and even a stained glass window. It is located between Grand and Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants. Its spacious rooms & fabulous floor plan make it perfect for entertaining.

LISTED AT \$529,000

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1149 HEARST AVENUE, BERKELEY

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4521 PLEASANT VALLEY COURT
OAKLAND

OPEN SUNDAYS
FEBRUARY 12TH & 19TH 2-4 PM

This beautifully maintained 2-bedroom, 1-bath home sits at the end of a quiet court. It's stylish character includes tastefully faux-painted textured walls with modern colors & hardwood floors throughout. The living room has a wood burning fireplace & built-in bookshelves. A formal dining room provides ample space for entertaining, while the eat-in kitchen is great for family dinners. The bathroom is enveloped in immaculate tile. Enjoy star-lit nights in the hot tub just off the kitchen. A shed in the backyard provides for extra storage & easy accessibility. Best of all, this home is conveniently located to all the wonderful shops & restaurants on Piedmont Avenue.

LISTED AT \$640,000

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Gym

FROM PAGE B16

something to play tapes or CDs. A television is probably best when mounted to a wall near the ceiling, unless you are using it for fitness instruction. In that case, it should be at eye level, depending on whether you will be primarily standing (aerobics, kickboxing) or working out closer to the floor (Pilates,

yoga).
Floors: Depending on the equipment, find appropriate flooring. Rubber tiles are great for areas where heavy weights might fall onto floors. A rubber mat will not only keep a treadmill, stationary bike or elliptical machine in place, it will keep the power cord tucked away to avoid trips, and it's an easy surface to clean after you do all that heavy-duty sweating.

Cleaning up: Stock the workout

area with natural cleaning products to keep the equipment clean and free of smelly bacteria. If you opt to put equipment in your bedroom (even though Feng Shui tells us that this is wrong because bedrooms should not be multipurpose), we have a suggestion: Vow never to use it as a coat rack. Once you start piling things on, an obstacle stands in the way of working out. You have to shuttle your clothes from the exercise equipment to the bed, then from the bed to the equipment. It's a bad situation.

Rules: Whether you're the only one who uses the space or you open it up to the neighborhood, rules are your friend. Set general rules for cleanup and maintenance to keep things in proper working order and to keep the space attractive. And here's a good rule for an area with weights: Make sure heavy lifters strip the weight from bars and

properly stow the weights out of the way when they're finished. The next person may not be strong enough to clear away the items.

A rubber mat will not only keep a treadmill, stationary bike or elliptical machine in place, it will keep the power cord tucked away to avoid trips, and it's an easy surface to clean after you do all that heavy-duty sweating.

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This stunning Piedmont Mediterranean has been recently renovated throughout. There are five bedrooms and four and one half bathrooms including an au pair space with a separate entrance. The new kitchen is accented with granite and stainless appliances. The formal rooms are spacious and well appointed. The home has wonderful outdoor spaces for entertaining and play. Offered at \$2,375,000



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CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

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COMPANY	Market Indicator*		Loan Product		Loan Product		Loan Product		Rates as of 02/07/06
	Last wk	This wk	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	
Downey Savings & Loan	800-798-2148	6.000	30-yr Fixed	5.750...1.875	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.125...1.875	1-mo COFI ARM	1.250* 1.000	Direct lender since 1957. *Pot. neg. arm. Great rates and FAST decisions. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
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Los Gatos Lending	Connection 866-660-0957		30-yr Fixed	5.625...1.825	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	5.875...1.875	10/1 to 1M	5.625...1.375	J30 Stated 860K 6.375%0Prt. apr6/28/1M. 15hr5.75apr5.8% 20hr 5.99%20hr 5.99%. 30hr6% apr6/13 All Opt to 417K
	DRE# 01220899		5.830...30	6.030...30	6.340...30	6.400...30	40-yr Fix to 417K	6.375...0.000	
Main Line-Tavistock Mgt.	877-876-3600		30-yr Fixed	5.875...0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.000...0.000	20-yr Fixed	5.500...0.000	BEST RATE AND FEE GUARANTEE. NO APPRAISAL FEE. MAINLINE NATIONAL. NO RATE LOCK FEE - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
	DOC# 603 A784		5.960...30	6.040...30	5.840...30	5.614...30	15-yr Fixed	5.500...0.000	
Mid Atlantic Capital	888-638-1819		30-yr Fixed	5.625 2.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	5.875...2.000	15-yr Fixed	5.250...1.750	MTA. A-B-C-D CREDIT OK. NO DOC LOANS TO 100% LOANS TO \$4M. STATED TO 100% OPEN DAYS. INT. ONLY AVAILABLE. *Pot neg arm
	DOC# 6038608		5.760...35	5.960...35	5.490...35	4.890...30	1.250* 0.000	4.890...30	
Mortgage Market	800-837-5626		30-yr Fixed	5.875...0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.125...0.500	15-yr Fixed	5.625 0.500	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans. Great Service, Over 25 years in Business
	DRE# 00887562		5.875...0.000	6.125...0.500	5.779...30	5.750...0.500	5/1 ARM Jumbo	5.750...0.500	
Saratoga Bancorp	800-935-6266		30-yr Fixed	6.000 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.500...0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo	5.500 0.000	Call for 1.00% ARM. All Credits. No Income Check Loan! Purch/Refi to 100%. saratogabancorp.com
	DRE#01220326		6.062...30	6.524...30	6.346...30	6.290...30	5/1 ARM	5.500 0.000	
Venstar Financial	866-580-6771		30-yr Fixed	5.875...0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.375...0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo	5.875...0.000	100% financing full doc or stated income. No closing cost line of credit
	DRE# 01400745		5.936...30	6.399...30	5.899...30	5.853...30	2/1 ARM Jumbo	5.500...0.000	
Washington Mutual Home Loan	925-256-7171		30-yr Fixed	call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	call	5/1 ARM Jumbo	call	Purchases/Close in just 10 days/NO POINTS. Complimentary Pre-Approval/NO POINTS (925) 256-7171 (866) WAMU-296
			call	call	call	call	10/1 ARM Jumbo	call	
Wells Fargo Home Mtg.	925-736-1125		30-yr Fixed	call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	call	10/1 ARM I/O	call	PURCHASE - REFI - INVESTORS - CASHOUT. Lock in a LOW Rate Today! - 925-736-1125. Fast Close - Low/No Fees - Stated Loans
			call	call	call	call	5/1 ARM I/O	call	
Wells Fargo Home Mtg.	866-806-1502		30-yr Fixed	call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	call	10/1 ARM Jumbo	call	100% to 1 M. Free Pre Approval. Credit Lines to 3 M. *For Tier 2 relationships only
			call	call	call	call	6.250 0.000	6.287...30	
A Superior Mortgage	800-591-4446		30-yr Fixed	6.000 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.250...0.000	5/1 ARM	5.750...0.000	Open Weekends! Bad Credit OK. Apply online at www.ASuperMortgage.com
	DRE# 01351704		6.110...30	6.340...30	5.840...30	5.740...30	15-yr Fixed	5.625...0.000	
Absolute Mortgage Fund.	888-90-HOMES		30-yr Fixed	5.875 0.125	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.250 0.000	15-yr Fixed	5.500 0.125	LOWEST RATES IN THE INDUSTRY! Free Float Downs Lender fees only \$399! CALL 888-90-HOMES
	DOC# 603 A776		5.930...30	6.280...30	5.550...30	5.600...30	5/1 ARM	5.500 0.000	
AimLoan.com	888-411-4246		30-yr Fixed	5.875...2.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.000...2.000	5/1 ARM	5.875...2.000	Direct Lender, Guaranteed Rates & Fees. Rates & Fees Posted Online
	DRE# 01235124		5.933...30	6.073...30	5.673...30	6.373...30	10/1 ARM Jumbo	6.373...30	
Amerisave Mortgage Corp.	877-464-5218		30-yr Fixed	5.750...0.734	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.000...0.500	3/1 ARM	5.125 0.625	www.amerisave.com. Fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300! Mention this ad and receive up to 50% off lender fees!
	DOC# 6038592		5.950...30	6.104...30	5.822...30	6.622...30	5/1 ARM	5.375 0.601	
CMG Mortgage Services	800-958-5339		30-yr Fixed	5.750...1.375	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	6.000 1.250	3/1 ARM Jumbo	5.375 1.500	OPEN SAT & SUN. QUICK QUALIFIER FOR INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE. NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE
	DRE# 01370755		5.926...30	6.139...30	5.532...30	5.623...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo	5.500...1.125	
Countrywide Home Loans	800-444-4806		30-yr Fixed	call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	call	Stated Pick A Pmt	call	Direct Lender. NO BROKER FEES! Purchase. 100% financing full doc or stated. Purchase, 10-day close with \$500. credit
			call	call	call	call	5/1 ARM I/O Jumbo	call	
Ditech.com	800-616-8208		30-yr Fixed	5.625...2.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	5.875...2.000	15-yr Fixed	5.375...2.000	Se hablo Espanol. Your mortgage solution. Delivered! Apply now at ditech.com
	DOC# 8132004		5.934...30	6.128...30	5.690...30	5.916...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo	5.500...2.000	

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Learn how to save on energy bills at Saturday workshop

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Learn techniques for maximizing home performance, which will help you continue to improve your comfort while saving money on escalating electricity bills. Tomorrow's free workshop at Truitt & White, 1817 Second St., Berkeley, will help you evaluate the energy efficiency of your home. You will also learn the steps you need to take to have a more comfortable, efficient and healthier environment. Presenters from Sustainable Spaces will discuss how to evaluate existing conditions. They will offer practical, cost-effective solutions on topics like insulation, exhaust fan flow, lighting, appliances as well as heating and air conditioning. Seminar: 9-11 a.m. Registration is required: 510-649-2674 or go online at www.truittandwhite.com.

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\$335,000 1305 Webster C-102 1BD/1BA Open. Sun. 2-4 510-393-5072 Annunzio & Assoc. Agent, Joanna	\$695,000 1512 Union St. 4 BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 Bickley Real Estate 510-769-1606 John Bickley	\$599,000 1149 Hearst Ave 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 510-409-9111 Red Oak Realty Feri Niroomand	\$479,000 5312 Polmett Ave 2bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 510-662-8558 Security Pacific www.carliadellazoppa.com	\$149,000 730 29th #109 Open Sun. 2-4 (Comm'l Condo) Red Oak Realty Sara Gatt
\$389,000 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #213 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 510-333-8897 Alameda Realty Eileen Walker	\$699,000 3450 Mecartney Rd. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4713 Russ Grant	\$625,000 2427 Browning 3bd/1+ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Poet's Corner 510-428-0900 Prudential Piedmont Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine	\$565,000 1120 Norvell Ct 3bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-292-7041 Stephanie Mewha	\$240,000 150 Pearl St. #105 Sun 2-4:30pm Adams Point Commonwealth Co.
\$415,000 2027 Otis Dr. #F 2bd/2ba Sat/Sun 2-4 So. Shore Lagoon 510-524-9888x19 Berkeley Hills R.E. Arlene Baxter	\$729,000 305 Court St. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4857 Carole Kim	\$639,000 1618 Cornell Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Prudential 510-428-0900 Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine	\$589,000 5725 Alta Punta 2bd/1.5ba Open Sun. 2-4 Marvin Gardens 510-527-2700x35 Alice McLeish	\$275,000 425 Orange St. #206 Open Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point Coldwell Banker
\$420,000 1170 9th Street #17 1 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 Gold Coast Edge 510-748-1148 Gallagher & Lindsey P. Dimacali	\$749,000 13 Invincible Ct. 3bd/2ba Sat/Sun 2-4 West End 510-748-1121/748-1195 Gallagher & Lindsey A. McIntyre/A. Ramirez	\$639,000 1368 Henry St 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 1-4 Gourmet Ghetto 510-527-0077 Millstein & Assoc. Stuart Marson	\$589,000 8514 Terrace Dr. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Gene Della Maggiora	\$239,000 349 Wayne Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 Lake Merritt Coldwell Banker
\$425,000 1170 9th Street #36 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 415-238-0152 Jason Byrley	\$799,000 1361 Eastshore Dr. 3BD/2.5BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-819-3204 Dede Cunningham	\$675,000 1580 Leroy 3bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 No. Berkeley 510-848-1950x240 Thornwall Properties Colleen Larkin	\$639,000 2732 Arlington Blvd 3bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Prudential Berkeley 510-868-1400 Candice/David	\$309,000 375 Jayne Ave #104 Open Sun. 2-5 Adams Pt. Prudential Grand Lake
\$425,000 965 Shorepoint Ct. #118 2 BD/2 BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Alameda Realty 510-508-7959 Carol Burnett	\$809,000 56 Benedict Ct 3 BD/2.5 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty Darin Vinal	\$679,000 1340 Sacramento Street 2BD/1+BA Open Sun. 2-4:30 Investment House Realty 510-913-6000 Jeanne Yeh, Agt	\$675,000 500 Sea View Dr 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 1-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-662-9469 www.gerlster.com	\$310,000 567 Oakland Ave #307 Open Sun. 2-4:30 Prudential Piedmont
\$429,000 2025 Otis Drive D 2 BD/2 BA Sat 2-4 South Shore 510-814-4830/814-4831 Harbor Bay Realty George & Bev Williams	\$845,000 131 Diapian Bay 3 BD/2 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-332-5883 Ron Martin	\$685,000 2441-2443 McKinley 2+bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 (Duplex) 510-292-2038 Red Oak Realty Carrie McAlister	\$690,000 7436 Potrero Ave 3bd/1.5ba Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens 510-527-9111 Jean Shrem/Marni Fischer	\$322,000 730 29th St. #112 Open Sun. 2-4 (Studio) Red Oak Realty Sara Gatt
\$440,000 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #210 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-846-1561 Luisa Marlin	\$950,000 1333 Weber St. 4 BD/1.5 BA Sun 2-4:30 Bickley Real Estate 510-769-1606 John Bickley	\$725,000 1321 Ordway 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential 510-338-1341 Leslie Avant	\$695,000 1732 Julian Ct. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Nancy Reichert	\$329,000 7015 Orral St Open Sun 1-4 John Werthelmer Prudential
\$449,000 339 Broadway #101 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 1-4 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes 510-755-4003 John Chang	\$957,000 321 Bryant Ave. 4 BD/3 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 REALTY WORLD-Alexander Phipps Realtors, Patrick	\$725,000 1708-10 Derby St. Duplex Open Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1363/510-338-1336 Pacific Union Residential L. Easterday/J. McPhail	\$699,000 1309 Hopkins St 2bd/1.5ba Open Sun. 2-5 Marvin Gardens 510-527-2700x35 Alice McLeish	\$339,000 2616 75th Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Montclair
\$449,000 965 Shorepoint Ct. #203 2 BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 Alameda Realty 510-508-7959 Carol Burnett	\$1,150,000 207 Anderson Rd. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty Ringo Liu	\$735,000 940 Regal Rd 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Marvin Gardens 510-524-0080 Todd Hodson/Ron Egberman	\$735,000 1659 Arlington Rd. 4BD/1.5BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Alameda Pinel Realtors 510-814-0921 Michael Smith	\$339,000 2700 8th Avenue Sun 2-4 Keller Williams 510-814-4883 Jeanne
\$499,000 2137 Otis Dr. 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-919-5485 John Bergman	\$1,195,000 1161 Bay St. 3 BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-523-2314/589-1908 S. Rudloff/H. Fry	\$760,000 755 Keeler Avenue 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-652-2133 Diane Verducci	\$769,000 1001 Richmond St 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-710-9921 Michael Smith	\$355,000/375,000 619 22nd St. Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Downtown Oakland Coldwell Banker
\$504,999 617-A Pacific Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sun 1-3:30 West End Cottage 510-813-8211 RVS Realty & Mortgage Kim Henderson	\$1,388,888 1906 Alameda Ave. duplex Sat/Sun 1-4 Central Alameda 510-748-1184 Gallagher & Lindsey Donnee & Dave Hankel	\$850,000 2806 Stuart Street 3BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-652-2133 Bebe McRae	\$795,000 2328 Carquinez Ave 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 1-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-375-0303 Christopher Chenault	\$360,000 311 Oak #741 Sun 2-4 Oakland 510-814-4883 Harbor Bay Realty Nancy Martin
\$515,000 2101 Shoreline Dr. #241 2 BD/2 BA Sat 2-4 Alameda Realty 510-508-7959 Carol Burnett	\$1,450,000 1712 Palmera Ct. 4 BD/3 BA Sun 2-4 Gold Coast 510-504-5091/504-5089 Harbor Bay Realty Barbara Bolton/Bill Douglas	\$925,000 2564 Buena Vista Way 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2152 Dana Cordeiro	\$825,000 1230 Contra Costa Dr 5bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-5 Red Oak Realty 510-292-2013 Todd Andrew	\$370,000 3489 Midvale #3 Open Sun 2-4:30 Laurel Coldwell Banker Kelley
\$528,000 447 Lincoln Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 West End 510-814-4869/814-4871 Harbor Bay Realty C. Blerwith/D. Garvine	\$1,530,000 2963 Sea View Pkwy 4 BD/3 BA Sat 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle 510-814-4813/814-4859 Harbor Bay Realty Richard Kim/Karen Wellman	\$950,000 31 Avenida Drive 4BD/2BA Sat & Sun 1-4 Alameda Pinel Realtors 925-251-1111 Wendy Moore	\$825,000 1267 - 64th St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 12-3 Emeryville (415) 699-2261 For Sale By Owner Michael	\$389,000 3800 Maybelle Ave. #12 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 510-814-4883 Jeanne
\$530,000 1541 Paru St. 1 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central Alameda 510-814-4871/814-4709 Harbor Bay Realty D. Garvine/M. Schumacher	\$2,100,000 2167 Central Ave. 3BD/5BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Laura Archegia	\$965,000 1540 Visalia 4+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Barbara Levy	\$699,000 648 Rincon Rd 3+bd/2ba Open Sat. 1-4 Prudential 510-815-4538 Allyk Vasdekis	\$390,000 2188 Ransom Ave. Sun 2-4 Prudential CA Realty 510-814-4883 Jeanne
\$548,000 1813 Lincoln Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central Alameda 510-814-4873 Harbor Bay Realty Lisa Horibek	Albany	\$1,200,000 55 Gypsy Lane 4+bd/3ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Montclair 510-339-4550 Patricia Bennett.com	\$699,000 4026 West St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Catherine Yarnau	\$399,000 9408 Oscar Ave Open Sat. /Sun. 1-4 Brookfield Village Prudential Claremont
\$579,000 1717 Oak St. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Centennial Real Estate 510-522-8749 Linda Larkin	\$325,000 417 Evelyn #105 1bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-701-7181 Carolyn Dopp	\$1,385,000 1937 Capistrano 4bd/2ba Sat/Sun 1-4 Thousand Oaks 510-912-1284 Keller Williams Berkeley Margaret Lin	\$675,000 1267 - 64th St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 12-3 Emeryville (415) 699-2261 For Sale By Owner Michael	\$415,000 425 Orange St #217 Open Sun 2-4:30pm Assisi-2-Sell
\$585,000 1003 Verdemar Dr. 3 BD/2.5 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-814-4710/814-4711 Harbor Bay Realty Walt Jacobs/Judy Jacobs	\$390,000 417 Evelyn #104 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-501-2570 Phyllis Bettencourt	\$1,425,000 951 Alvarado Rd. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC 415-271-4885 Jeannie Anderson	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$417,000 398 Adams St. #306 Open Sun. 1-4 Adams Pt. Marquez & Assoc.
\$585,000 1147 Holly Street 2 BD/2 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-814-4880 Harbor Bay Realty Maureen Shandoli	\$405,000 417 Evelyn #203 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-501-2570 Phyllis Bettencourt	\$1,448,000 7112 Marlborough Terrace 3BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-339-9290 Prudential Heidi Marchesotti	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$419,000 425 E. 11th St. #24 Open Sun 12-5 East Lake 510-486-1495 Lawton Associates
\$589,000 1306 Mount St. 2bd/1ba Sat/Sun 2-4 West End 510-748-1807/748-1162 Gallagher & Lindsey A. Bracci/C. Wu	\$415,000 417 Evelyn #101 2bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-701-7181 Carolyn Dopp	\$1,595,000 419 Boynton Avenue 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Anthony Riggins	\$649,000 100 Skelly 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 C21 Heritage 925-787-2074 Janet Sweeney	\$419,000 846 35th Ave. Sat & Sun 1-4 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes
\$589,000 340 Lincoln Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 West End 510-814-4882 / 814-4874 Harbor Bay RealtyAntoinette Paulino/Mark Playsted	\$549,000 791 Taft Ave. B 2 BD/2.5 BA Sat & Sun 2-4:30 Keiko McDonough, Broker 510-522-4449	\$1,695,000 69 Parnassus Rd 4+bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty 510-631-6218 Heidi & Jerry Long	\$649,900 133 Crane Ct 4bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-508-5580 Mary Cao	\$430,000 2720 Truman Open Sat. 1-4 Security Pacific R.E.
\$595,000 1033 College Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 East End 510-504-5091/504-5089 Harbor Bay Realty Bill Douglas	\$720,000 1431 Washington 3BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 510-486-1495 Marilyn Garcia	\$1,775,000 890 Grizzly Peak Boulevard 4+BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-652-2133 Anne Feste	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$438,000 1444 E. 31st Street Open Sun 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors
\$610,000 3344 Fir Ave. 3 BD/2.5 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-814-4865 Harbor Bay Realty Lena Sazo	\$769,500 716 Gateview Ave 4bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2167 Passion Broussard	Castro Valley	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$442,000 703 Brockhurst St. Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Alameda Pinel Realtors
\$615,000 1520 Third St. 2BD/1BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-205-4369/205-3575 D. Gunderman/A. Reskopf	\$727,000 2550 Dana St. 4D 1bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 (Senior 55+ Co-op) 510-848-1950x246 Thornwall Properties Joann Sullivan	\$388,000 19100 Crest Ave #70 2bd/2ba Open Sat/Sun. 1-4 Windermere Real Estate 510-681-6704 Arthur White	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$445,000 1563 78th Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Eastmont Gallagher & Lindsey Inc. Rolando & C
\$620,000 2170 Pacific Avenue 3bd/1ba Sun 2-4 Central 510-748-1148/748-1175 Gallagher & Lindsey P. Dimacali / A. Debardeleben	\$485,000 1333 67th St 2bd/1ba Sat/Sun. 1-4 Emeryville Border 510-326-4557 Prudential Grand Lake Malaka Hopkins	Concord	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$448,000 6578 Saroni Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker
\$635,000 1210 Pacific Ave. 3 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 Panavista Realty 510-523-0707 Ramesh	\$499,000 2120 6th St #12 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 C21 Heritage 510-910-5757 Todd Enley	\$700,000 1254 Gardenia Ln 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 1-4 Prudential Grand Lake 510-318-2336 Ming Zhou	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$450,000 3691 Maybelle Ave. Sun 1:30-4 Oakland Harbor Bay Realty
\$669,000 2430 Webb Ave. 3BD/2BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Alameda Realty 510-681-5249 Carol Knight	\$485,000 1333 67th St 2bd/1ba Sat/Sun. 1-4 Emeryville Border 510-326-4557 Prudential Grand Lake Malaka Hopkins	Dublin	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	\$450,950 7638 Holly St. Open Sat & Sun 12-4 Help-U-Sell East Bay
\$689,000 1718 Lafayette St. 3 BD/2 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central Alameda 510-814-4897/814-4887 Harbor Bay Realty Nancy Masch / Alex Mak	\$499,000 2120 6th St #12 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 C21 Heritage 510-910-5757 Todd Enley	\$729,000 7548 Odyssey 3+bd/2+ba Open Sun 1-4pm Starward 510-610-1012 Dennis Miller	\$539,999 24849 2nd Street 2BD/1 BA Open Sun 1-4 510-748-1110/748-1173 Gallagher & Lindsey S. Lastreto/K. Jacobsen	

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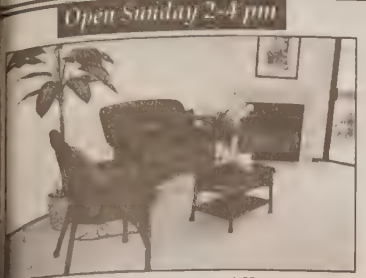
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Experience:
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 Law degree - U.C. Berkeley, 1978

Seth J. Feinberg
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 2831 Telegraph Avenue
 Oakland, CA 94609

Tel. (510) 251-1444

Fax: (510) 251-1141

3 New Listings



36 - 29TH ST., RICHMOND
 #36 - Clean home near St. Cornelius.
 spacious liv. rm w/fireplace, dining
 area, great kitchen with appliances.
 Resurfaced hwd floors, dual pane
 windows, recessed lighting, private
 back yard, new sod in front-attached
 gar.
\$439,950



1120 NORVELL CT., EL CERRITO
 #412 - Rambling ranch style.
 Spacious living rm w/flagstone
 fireplace & adjoining dining, large
 kitchen w/eating space, gleaming
 hardwood floors, double garage on
 quiet cul-de-sac.
\$569,000



MOVE-IN CONDITION
 #28 - Richmore Village, living rm w/
 fireplace, formal dining area, kitchen
 w/eating area, 2 bdrms upstairs w/
 hwd floors, interior access to
 tandem garage & laundry area.
 spacious rear yard & deck. Good
 location!
\$408,000

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Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Richmond
3224-3232 Linden St 4 Units 510-292-2031 John Nunes	\$635,000 4637 Fieldbrook Rd. 2+BD/1+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Coldwell Banker Karen Lum/Liat Bostick	\$767,000 972 Alleen Avenue 3+BD/2+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland The Grubb Co. Ruth Frassetto	\$1,350,000 6040 Contra Costa Rd. 4BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel Realtors Karl Schonian	\$555,000 4906 Plaza Way 4bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 R.P. Smith & Co. Richard Smith
1315 E. 32nd St 2+bd/1ba 510-848-1950/238 Lee Goodwin	\$639,000 3800 Elston Avenue 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview Pacific Union Residential Teri Carlisle	\$769,000 4379 Terrabella Pl. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker Becky Andersen	\$1,398,500 11439 Lochard 6BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Diana Kay	\$588,000 1111 Greystone 3bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2:15-4:15 Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng
3015 Kingsland Ave 3bd/1ba 510-339-8400 Sandy Spring	\$639,000 3823 Randolph Ave 2bd/1.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens www.kathieberg.com	\$795,000 4106 Laurel Avenue 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights The Grubb Co. Mavis Delacroix	\$1,425,000 2100 Arrowhead Dr. 4BD/2.5BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Ellen Lancaster	\$639,000 1502 Fox Glove Pl 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2:15-4:15 Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng
4843 Fairfax Ave 3bd/1ba 510-869-1554 Anita Becker	\$639,000 3915 Patterson Ave. 3 BD/2 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 Laurel Heights Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes John Chang	\$795,000 5334 Broadway 3+bd/1+ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge Montclair Better Homes Tom Watson	\$1,460,000 2223 Tunnel Road 2BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills The Grubb Co. Carolyn Jones	\$670,000 3973 Selmi Grove 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 2:15-4:15 Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng
875 42nd St. 3 BD/1 BA 510-814-4864/814-4885 Ronald Jones/Jeff Goodman	\$640,000 4521 Pleasant Valley Ct 2bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty Saraya Motley	\$795,000 6400 Estates Drive 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont/Montclair The Grubb Co. Debra Dryden	\$1,570,000 2707 Camino Lenada 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker Gary & Noni Robinson	\$683,000 1015 Red Hawk Ct 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2:15-4:15 Coldwell Banker Bartels Sam Cheng
2004 80th Ave. 4 BD/2 BA 510-251-6000	\$649,000 354-360 Adams 4bd/4ba Open Sun. 2-5 Adams Pl. Prudential Piedmont Bryan Salomone	\$799,000 4755 Geranium Place 4BD/3BA Open Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate Services Shahin Saki	\$1,674,000 5801 Buena Vista Avenue 4BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge The Grubb Co. Elizabeth Dickson	\$869,000 5919 Van Fleet St 5bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4 Marvin Gardens Herman Sun
2004 80th Ave. 4 BD/2 BA 510-251-6000	\$649,000 4315 Gilbert Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave The Grubb Co. Bettina Balestrieri	\$799,000 5371 Shafter Ave 2bd/1ba Open Sun. 1-4 Rockridge Keller Williams David Higgins	\$1,795,000 5578 Lawton Ave. 3 BD/3.5 BA Sat & Sun 12-4 Rockridge Caldecott Properties Michael Mandell	\$959,900 885 Meadow View 5bd/4ba Open Sun. 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels Christopher Casimere
390-42nd St 2bd/1ba 510-339-9290 Lisa Friedman	\$649,000 4520 Fairbairn 3+bd/1+ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Maxwell Park Prudential Berkeley Barbara Reynolds	\$799,000 5511 Proctor Ave 3+bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge Montclair Better Homes Michael Thompson	\$1,995,000 12363 Skyline Blvd. 5BD/5BA Open Sun. 2-4:30 ERA Home Traditions Agent Fred Brown	
22 Moss Ave. #311 2BD/2BA 510-339-1330 Lorri Arazi	\$649,000 581 59th St. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland Pacific Union Residential Tom Nemeth	\$829,000 339 Palm Avenue 3BD/2BA Sat & Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors Steve Straton		San Leandro
425 E. 11th St. #26 1BD/1BA 510-947-5970 Ron Kriss	\$649,000 71 Merrie Wood Circle 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Realty World East Bay Lorne Lente	\$849,000 347 Wayne Ave. 3BD/3BA Open 2-4:30 Lake Merritt Coldwell Banker Nancy Dickey	\$875,000 124 Ronada Ave. 2+BD/1+BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential Hirsch/Gardner-Ferrari	\$339,000 1599 Hays St. #108 2 BD/2 BA Open Sun 2-4 San Leandro Harbor Bay Realty Tom Young
2821 25th Ave 3BD/1BA 510-451-7317/25 Michael Valva	\$649,000 884-886 Arlington BD/BA Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland Coldwell Banker Noni Robinson/James Brown	\$865,000 3375 Herrier St 3bd/1.5ba Sat 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Pacific Union Residential Patricia Makinen	\$1,100,000 46 Monticello Avenue 2BD/2BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Elizabeth Dickson	\$544,000 860 Bancroft Ave 3bd/1ba Open Sun. 1-4 Red Oak Realty Amy Robeson
3214 Millview Ave 3BD/1BA 510-531-7000 x228 Kate Phillips	\$659,000 17 Whittle Court 3+BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Diamond District The Grubb Co. H. Broderick/M. Friedman	\$869,000 4756 Geranium Place 4bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-5 Montclair ZipRealty Ed Toman	\$1,150,000 424 El Cerrito Ave. 3+BD/2BA Sat & Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential T. Baum/K. Callahan	\$640,000 2220 Sandpiper Ct. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Keml Onifade
425 E. 11th St. #5 2+BD/2BA 510-947-5970 Ron Kriss	\$659,000 9 Moss Avenue 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Julie Gardner	\$869,000 5876 Ascot Dr. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential Donna Costella	\$1,350,000 39 Wildwood Avenue 4+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Mindy Scott	\$719,000 776 Rodney Drive 3BD/1.5BA Open Sun 1:30-4 Wells & Bennett Realtors Elisa Uribe
745 45th St 3bd/1ba 510-868-1400 Meaza Tesfa	\$669,000 4250 Maple Ave. 3BD/2BA Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Laurel Union Coldwell Banker CJ Boydston/Ruby Kh	\$879,000 2630 Carlsbrook Dr 4bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge Prudential Piedmont Aleso & Vickie	\$1,595,000 432 Scenic 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential Shelia Gallagher	San Pablo
1426 MacArthur Blvd. 2 BD/1 BA 510-523-2378 Donnaci Williams	\$670,000 2957 106th Avenue 4 BD/3 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 Near Zoo Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes John Chang	\$879,000 563 Radnor Rd 4bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty Jose Fernandez	\$2,375,000 180 Sandringham Road 5BD/4.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Kurt Buchholz	\$527,999 161 San Luis Obispo Cir 3bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 1-3 Abella (Townhouse) Security Pacific R.E. Bing Pierce
624 Oakland Ave 2+bd/1ba 510-280-2166 Julie Cuellos	\$675,000 4307-4309 Gilbert St. Duplex Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave. Pacific Union Residential Joan Dark	\$885,000 6900 Thornhill Dr 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Valva Realty Co. Paul Valva	\$2,600,000 48 Sandringham Rd. 4+BD/5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential Georgia Cornell	Vallejo
6322 Monardock Way 3BD/1 1/2BA 510-510-4077 Deborah	\$679,000 3900 Greenwood Avenue 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview The Grubb Co. Carolyn Jones	\$889,000 6833 Moore Drive 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Wells & Bennett Realtors Frank Hennefer	\$2,690,000 22 Mesa Avenue 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Sandra Vogl	\$459,000 176 Evelyn Circle 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 Better Homes Realty Anne Ayankoya
2846 Morgan Ave. 2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Rachel Baller	\$679,000 4250 Laguna Ave. 2+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Lincoln Heights Pacific Union Residential Donna DeBardi	\$899,000 1735 22nd Ave 3BD/3BA & 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 C21 Heritage Mel & Tiffany Copland		Marin County
2015 E. 28th St. 2+ BD/2 BA 510-832-2215 Agnes Wu	\$680,000 8009 Michigan Ave 3bd/3ba Open Sun. 1-4 Oakland Hills Prudential Grand Lake CP Yang	\$899,000 3203 Monterey Blvd 5bd/3ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Redwood Heights Montclair Better Homes Patricia Bennett	\$495,000 626 Primrose Terrace 3bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 2-4 Marvin Gardens Darrell Hoh	\$440,000 1649 Novato Blvd. #10 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 Novato Intero Real Estate Services Sandra Melly
2126 41st Avenue 2BD/1.25 BA 510-748-1131 Ms. Sam McDowell	\$689,000 10751 Hellman 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Pacific Union Residential Donna Costella	\$935,000 5437 Shafter Avenue 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge The Grubb Co. Faye Keogh		
2734 Monticello 3BD/1BA 510-331-7000 x278 Kate Phillips	\$689,000 5351 Belgrave Place 28 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge Pacific Union Residential Martha Holstlaw	\$949,000 28 Starview Drive 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Hillier Highlands The Grubb Co. Adam Beta	\$549,000 225 Contra Costa Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4 Point Realty Karen Nittie	
3280 Butters Dr. 2BD/1.5 BA 510-339-4700 Donna Conroy	\$699,000 14 Veteran Way 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential Jackie Care	\$995,000 6443 Hillegass Avenue 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge The Grubb Co. Michelle Winchester	\$649,000 77 Vine Ave. 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Barbara Marienthal	
851-833 Athens Ave. (2) 4BD/2BA 415-847-0024 Agt. Matt	\$699,000 6348 Heather Ridge Way 2BD/1BA Open Sun 12-4 Montclair Intero Real Estate Services Kasie Robertson	\$995,000 8008 Broadway Terrace 4bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes Nahid Nassiri	\$419,000 444 39th St 2bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 North & East Prudential Berkeley Barbara Reynolds	
7971 Sanford St 3bd/1ba 510-655-4884 Marylou Martin	\$725,000 2435 Burlington Street 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Lincoln Heights The Grubb Co. Steve Michaelides	\$1,050,000 5941 Colton 3BD/2+BA Open Sun 2-5 Montclair Coldwell Banker Terry Kulka/Karyn Miller	\$419,000 590 8th St. 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 1-3 Security Pacific Kevin Tannahill	
649 61st St. 4bd/2ba 510-759-3677 Julia Temple	\$725,000 421 E. 19th St Triplex Open Sat. 1-4 Lake Merritt Keller Williams David Higgins	\$1,095,000 1030 Winsor Avenue 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Lakeshore The Grubb Co. Karthiga Anandan	\$439,950 36-29th St 2bd/1ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Bartels SII Adelphi	
3425 Mirasol Ave 3bd/2ba 510-899-6333 Ken Nwokedi	\$729,000 6815 Gunn Dr 3bd/2ba Open Sat. 2-4:30 Montclair Prudential Mary Dresser	\$1,095,000 6380 Wood Drive 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair The Grubb Co. Karen Starr	\$475,000 2553 Groveview DR 3bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes Kimberly Gatesi	
4135 Howe St. 2BD/1BA 510-338-1305/1340 T. Carlisle/C. Downer	\$729,000 4751 Fair Ave. 2 BD/1.5 BA Sun 1-4 Rose Marie Bero IREB Agent/Owner	\$1,160,000 6655 Sobrante Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker Claudia Bowman	\$479,000 3527 Cerrito Ave 2bd/1ba Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens Darrell Hoh	
1600 Excelsior Avenue 3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Mary Merrick	\$739,000 5655 Masonic Avenue 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge The Grubb Co. Anlan Pettit Tunney	\$1,250,000 6216 Estates Dr. 4+BD/3+BA Open Sat 2-4:30 Montclair Pacific Union Residential Jeffrey Nieldman	\$499,000 3124 Florida Ave 3bd/2.5ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes Ken Nwokedi	
18 Chico Ct. 3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 J. Brown/P. Nicolopoulos	\$749,000 444 62nd St 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 1-4 Lower Rockridge Prudential Berkeley Anika Becker	\$1,348,000 6829 Elverton Dr. BD/BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Pacific Union Residential Lee Jacobson	\$499,900 3233 Andrade Ave 2bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels Christopher Casimere	

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Panoramic views on Lagoon, 1 bedroom, 1 bath end unit with deck, extra garden area. Private complex, amenities include community pool and covered parking. Walk to beach & shops.
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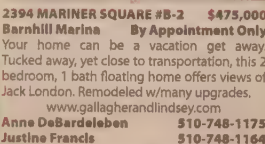
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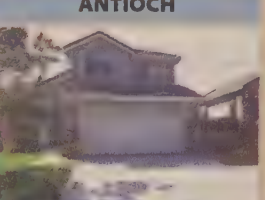
2394 MARINER SQUARE #B-2 \$475,000
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13271 TALC STREET \$615,000
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Kurt Jacobsen (510)748-1173



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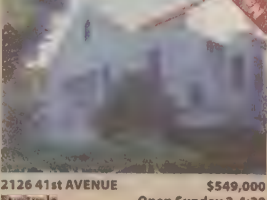


1563 78th AVENUE \$445,000
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Ready to move in 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with new appliances, newer roof, new carpet, fresh paint interior and exterior.
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Rolando & Coqui Sasora (510)748-1166

OAKLAND



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OAKLAND



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1699 8th STREET \$460,000
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Priced right this wonderful live/work space with potential. Building has a nice view and rough commercial downstairs. Buy price if lot next door is purchased together.
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Jim Collins (510)748-1176



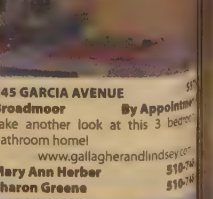
2600 LOGAN STREET \$580,000
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Jose Cerda-Zeln (510)748-1197



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SPORTS

• Friday, February 10, 2006 •

Section C

Around the horn

Fifteen in a row and counting

■ Oklahoma women's basketball star Courtney Paris notched her 15th straight double double and 20th of the season in an 88-73 victory over Missouri on Sunday. Paris, a 2005 Piedmont High School graduate, had 27 points and 16 rebounds in the victory for the Sooners, ranked No. 9 in the country by The Associated Press. Oklahoma (19-4) hosted Kansas in a Big 12 game on Wednesday after press time. Paris's 20 double doubles tied the conference's single-season record. If Paris achieved at least 10 points and 10 rebounds on Wednesday, she would hold the new record alone. For the season, Paris is averaging 21.3 points and 14.7 rebounds per game, which ranks her in the top five, nationally, in each category. She and her twin sister Ashley were featured in the Feb. 6 issue of Sports Illustrated.

— Dave Carpenter

Ruling again

■ The Berkeley High School girls soccer team clinched at least a share of the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League title with a 9-0 win over Richmond on Feb. 2. Results of Tuesday's game against De Anza were unavailable at press time. The Yellow Jackets have won every ACCAL girls soccer title since entering the league in the 2000-2001 school year.

— Phil Jensen

Flood, McGee to be honored

■ Willie McGee and the late Curt Flood, East Bay high school baseball stars who went on to further fame as center fielders for the St. Louis Cardinals, will be inducted tonight into the African-American/Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame at the Hyatt Regency in San Jose. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30. Flood, who died in 1997 at 59, challenged baseball's reserve clause in 1970. McGee, who also played for the A's Giants and Red Sox, has served as an assistant coach at Contra Costa College, and with a childhood friend started the Willie McGee Foundation, which provides scholarships and community outreach to a variety of athletic, educational and cultural programs. Other inductees will be NFL lineman Lincoln Kennedy, NFL Hall of Famer John Henry Johnson, tennis champion Don Johnson, track and field stars Gene Johnson and Irene Obera and San Jose State boxing and judo coaches Julius Menendez and Hoshihiro Uchida. Seven community service awards also will be presented. Among the recipients will be longtime basketball coach Ben Tapscoff. For ticket or information, contact LaNiece Jones at 510-588-5899 or lajpr@aol.com. Or visit afrosporthall.com.

— Mike McGreehan

On Deck

■ Girls basketball, Pinole Valley at Berkeley, today, 7 p.m. — The Yellow Jackets, who had a seven-game winning streak at press time and were in second place in the ACCAL, host the Spartans, who are 19-0 at press time.

■ Boys basketball, Salesian vs. St. Mary's at Contra Costa College, Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Panthers had a five-game winning streak at press time, but the rival Chieftains had a 14-game winning streak dating back to Dec. 22. At press time, Salesian held first place in the Bay Shore Athletic League (9-0) and St. Mary's was in second place with a 7-1 league record.

■ Girls basketball, El Cerrito at Alameda, Tuesday, 7 p.m. — In the first meeting, Janae Miller scored a season-high 34 points as the Hornets fell 68-66 in overtime to the host Gauchos. A win over El Cerrito could bolster Alameda's shot at an North Coast Section playoff berth.

■ Girls basketball, St. Mary's at Piedmont, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. — Piedmont hopes to avenge a 53-48 loss to St. Mary's and possibly tie St. Patrick for the league lead. If that scenario occurs, the Highlanders would have an inside track on winning another BSAL regular season title. In their only meeting with St. Patrick, the Highlanders defeated the Bruins 68-55. Thus, Piedmont would be given the tiebreaker. The league playoffs are next week.

■ Boys basketball, St. Mary's at Piedmont, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. — The Highlanders finish the regular season at home against the tough Panthers. St. Mary's beat Piedmont 59-46 in their first meeting of the season on Jan. 13. The BSAL playoffs are next week.

Stars of the week

■ Robby Nichols, Albany wrestling — Nichols reached the finals of the tough Mission San Jose Invitational, where he lost to Sherman Norton of Del Norte 3-1. But Nichols had a 4-1 record in the tournament, including a 7-5 double overtime win over No. 1 seed Kris Osterhof of Miramonte in the semifinals.

■ Rolando Oliver, St. Mary's boys basketball — Oliver had a team-high 16 points, six steals and three assists in the Panthers' 52-51 victory over St. Joseph Notre Dame.

■ Jazmine Perkins, Berkeley girls basketball — Perkins had six points and seven assists to help the Hornets upset Berkeley 46-41 on Tuesday. She also had a team-high 14 points in a 49-30 loss to Pinole Valley on Friday.

■ Michelle Blaisdell, Alameda girls basketball — Blaisdell had six points and seven assists to help the Hornets upset Berkeley 46-41 on Tuesday. She also had a team-high 14 points in a 49-30 loss to Pinole Valley on Friday.

■ Destinee Martel, Encinal girls basketball — Martel had a game-high 23 points in a 51-41 win over De Anza on Friday.

Brew's putback picks up Panthers, older brother

■ Last-second victory over St. Joseph moves St. Mary's into second place in BSAL

By Pete Elman
CORRESPONDENT

With ten seconds left in the game and his team trailing 51-50 on Saturday, St. Mary's High School sophomore Will Brew threw up an off-balance prayer that clanked off the backboard — right into the arms of younger brother Chris, who put back the miss to give the Panthers' boys basketball team a thrilling victory.

In a heart stopping Bay Shore Athletic League game played at Alameda, St. Mary's defeated St. Joseph Notre Dame 52-51. The Panthers (17-5, 7-1 BSAL), with this victory, jumped past the Pilots (17-6, 7-2) into second place in the BSAL behind Salesian.

Rolando Oliver led the Panthers with 16 points, six steals and three assists in a track meet-like contest that featured nine lead changes.

The game started auspiciously for St. Mary's, as the Pilots, spurred on by a raucous home crowd, sprinted out to a 14-4 lead after one period behind point guard Josh Malloy's eight points and a smothering man defense.

Panther coach Manny Nodar wasn't worried, though.

"Sooner or later I knew we'd make some shots," the fourth-year coach said. What got the Panthers back in the

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ROUNDUP

game was their trademark. Their success this season can be attributed to one word — run.

Oliver led a fierce second quarter comeback, racking up four of his six steals and scoring nine of his team-high 16 points in a period that saw his team outscore St. Joseph 23-8. The 5-foot-7 senior point guard showed why he has been a standout tailback for the Panthers' football team, diving for loose balls and often emerging from the pack, leading the charge to the basket and creating shots.

At the half the score was 27-22 in St. Mary's favor. The momentum seesawed back and forth in the third quarter as St. Joseph climbed back into the game behind senior Jason Rockwell.

Heading into the final period St. Mary's led 41-40, and the action got even more intense as both coaches subbed at will, looking for matchup advantages.

Rockwell converted the second of two three-point plays to give his team a 51-50 lead with a minute left, but Bailey turned the ball over and failed to convert two free throws with 15 seconds left.

That's when the Brew brothers attacked, with freshman Chris in the right place at the right time, converting older brother Will's missed attempt to give the Panthers a 52-51 lead.

See BOYS, Page 2



BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL'S Brendan Lee (2) and Richmond's Christian Prado fight for the ball during an ACCAL match.



ALBANY HIGH'S Tori Nicks, left, drives past St. Patrick-St. Vincent's Christina Walker during their BSAL game.

Yellow Jackets rally

■ Mitchell scores 17 points and pulls down nine rebounds to help Berkeley overcome eight-point halftime deficit

By Robert Jordan
STAFF WRITER

The Berkeley and Miramonte high school girls basketball teams have a lot in common.

Both are loaded with talented underclassmen guards. They have programs with a winning tradition and two of the most respected coaches in the area.

But one big difference — 6 feet, 4 inches to be exact — decided the outcome on Saturday in a nonleague contest.

Center Alexandria Mitchell had a game-high 17 points and added nine rebounds as the Yellow Jackets beat the host Matadors 54-47.

"At halftime our coach asked what we were doing and if we wanted to win," said Mitchell, whose team trailed 28-20 at intermission.

Mitchell and teammate Jazmine Perkins helped answer coach Gene Nakamura's question, combining for 16 of Berkeley's 27 third-quarter points to help the Yellow Jackets (13-7 at press time) win their seventh-straight game.

"I did start to feel it," said Mitchell, who shot 8-for-15 in the game. "I knew

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ROUNDUP

in order for us to win, I had to start scoring."

She was right. A junior, Mitchell scored six points in the first quarter to help Berkeley rally from a 10-2 deficit and end the period on an 11-0 run.

But in the second quarter, Mitchell didn't attempt any field goals and had just one point on 1-of-2 free throw attempts.

Miramonte (15-5 at press time) took advantage and outscored the Yellow Jackets 18-8 in the period to head into halftime with the lead.

"I don't think we had the post players that could stop Alexandria," said Miramonte guard Ashlee Burns, who led the Matadors with 15 points. "And we really couldn't make shots in the second half."

After shooting 7-for-12 in the second quarter, including four 3-pointers, Miramonte couldn't find a rhythm in the second half.

The Matadors shot 8-for-28 after halftime.

Berkeley didn't have any problems with its offense in the second half. With Mitchell controlling the paint, Perkins went to work on the perimeter.

Perkins scored 10 of her 12 points in the third quarter. She also finished one

assist shy of a triple-double before leaving the game late in the fourth quarter with an apparent sprained left ankle.

A sophomore, Perkins finished with 11 rebounds, nine assists and four blocks.

St. Patrick-St. Vincent 78, Albany 35: Alex Cowling scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Bruins capitalized on a 24-3 advantage after one quarter to cruise to victory in Albany on Friday.

St. Patrick-St. Vincent (19-3, 8-1 BSAL at press time) took advantage of Cowling's size early on and the Cougars could never find an answer for the forward's inside game. Cowling scored 12 points and pulled down six rebounds in the first quarter alone to spark the Bruins.

Albany (7-11, 5-4) struggled mightily to find its shot early, converting its first field goals almost three minutes into the second quarter.

Laura Cannon, Ashley Green, and Carrissa Hsieh all scored eight for the short-handed Cougars, who suited up only eight players. Joan Cannon added nine rebounds.

El Cerrito 84, Richmond 36: The host Gauchos (17-3, 6-2 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) outscored the Oilers 26-7 in the second quarter to take command on Friday. El Cerrito's Shonetta Crain-Williams

See GIRLS, Page 2



MIKE GALE
Recreation

Food for thought on the trail

BACKPACKING INTO the backcountry doesn't give one the option of stopping at a restaurant for a quick meal when hunger hits.

Eating on the trail can be a challenge. And carrying pounds and pounds of gear doesn't leave much room for food.

But everyone has to eat. So to eat and not take up much room in the pack, there are some ways to make meal preparation easier.

One way is to begin preparing food before even heading out. Dehydrators are relatively inexpensive and can be used to make one's own beef jerky, as well as dehydrating fruits and vegetables. Pasta sauce and hamburger also can be dehydrated.

The advantage is you condense nutritious food down but keep all the nutrients and make it easier to pack and carry.

Instead of carrying ingredients in their original containers you can pre-mix ingredients and carry them in zip-lock freezer bags. This cuts down on weight, and trash.

To keep critters out of camp, keep food stored away and pick up spills. Never sleep with food or other attractive items like toothpaste or gum in your tent. Those critters have a nose for such things and can disrupt a peaceful night of sleep. Hang it in a bag from a high tree limb or put it in a bear-proof container stored away from camp.

Pack snacks for the trip. Be sure to bring foods such as the dehydrated fruits or the beef jerky or some trail mix to eat while hiking. That way, you won't be famished and impatient when it comes time to cook the real meal.

Don't underestimate how much food a hiking group will need. Hiking uphill all day with a 40-pound pack does wonders for the appetite.

SURVIVAL: Ready to rough it or learn preparedness for survival? The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will hold a wilderness course intended to equip participants with confidence and independence in the backwoods. The two-day Land Navigation and Wilderness

See GALE, Page 2

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	17-1	Allows just 10 points in final 27 minutes of win over Deer Valley
2.	Campolindo	16-3	Cougars rout Concord
3.	Foothill	18-2	Falcons outscore Amador Valley 46-29 in second half of 70-53 win
4.	Skyline	17-4	Titans squeak past Castlemont 60-57
5.	Salesian	16-4	Resolve was tested in a week without coach Bill Mellis (surgery)
6.	San Ramon Valley	15-5	Loss to Monte Vista snaps 14-game EBAL winning streak
7.	Las Lomas	16-3	Knights vent frustrations with a 45-point pasting of Alhambra
8.	San Leandro	15-4	Moved back into a first-place tie in HAAL by beating Tennyson 54-44
9.	Monte Vista	14-6	Rivalry atmosphere spurs host Mustangs to an upset of then-No. 3 SRV
10.	St. Joseph Notre Dame	17-5	Pilots stayed close to BSAL leader Salesian with win over John Swett

Also receiving votes: Deer Valley (14-5), De Anza (14-5), Pinole Valley (13-5), Tennyson (16-3). The boys basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Feb. 1.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Pinole Valley	18-0	Coach Dan O'Shea and company off to best start in his 20-year tenure
2.	Carondelet	17-2	Cougars outscore Freedom 33-14 in first half on way to 37-point win
3.	Piedmont	17-4	Highlanders shouldn't be tested until BSAL finale against St. Mary's
4.	Washington	19-2	Huskies win eighth straight game with 67-30 rout of Kennedy-Fremont
5.	Berkeley	11-7	Jasmine Perkins scores 21 as Yellow Jackets defeat El Cerrito
6.	El Cerrito	16-3	Gauchos look to snap two-game slide after 76-47 loss to Berkeley
7.	Deer Valley	15-4	Wolverines hit just four field goals in second half against Carondelet
8.	Miramonte	14-4	Matadors idle for seven days before Feb. 3 game at Concord
9.	Moreau Catholic	16-3	Mariners beat San Leandro, extend HAAL winning streak to 28 games
10.	St. Patrick	18-3	Bruins get back in BSAL race, outscore St. Mary's 14-9 in fourth quarter to win

Also receiving votes: San Leandro (16-3), Northgate (15-4), San Ramon Valley (15-5). The girls basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is voted on by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Feb. 1.

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

The Pilots had one last chance on an inbounds play with 3.4 seconds remaining. Rockwell tried a 10-foot runner at the buzzer that was blocked by Will Brew. **SOCCER**

Richmond 8, Berkeley 0: What a difference a field makes — as the boys soccer teams of Richmond and Berkeley high schools surely will attest. At Berkeley on Jan. 5, the visiting Oilers scored twice in the final five minutes for a come-from-behind win. When the teams met in an Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League rematch at Richmond on Feb. 2, the Oilers scored early in the first half and often in the second in an 8-0 rout.

"The field had something to do with it; it's a lot heavier than we're used to," Berkeley coach Jose Ibarra said. "We don't get to

practice at all on grass."

Especially on muddy grass. The Yellow Jackets (13-8-1, 7-5 ACCAL) play their home matches on AstroTurf. At Richmond, rain from earlier in the day had turned the field to mush. And the Oilers (15-1-3, 11-0-1) clearly were more acclimated to it.

"Here's where we practice and play," Oilers coach Rene Siles said. "The Yellow Jackets are not used to it. Just like when we go (to Berkeley, the AstroTurf) helps them."

When they first met, the teams played scoreless for 64 minutes. The rematch did not follow the same script as Ricardo Salazar put the Oilers on the scoreboard at 11 minutes with help from Victor Montes and Alfredo Zambrano.

Eduardo Rodriguez gave the Oilers a two-goal lead off a loose ball at 29:49.

The match became a mismatch when the Oilers began to

score goal after goal midway through the second half.

WRESTLING

Mission San Jose Invitational: Robby Nichols' second-place finish highlighted Albany's performance Saturday at the Mission San Jose Invitational.

Nichols went 4-1 in the tough tournament, losing only in the championship match to Sherman Norton of Del Norte by the close score of 3-1. Nichols started the tournament with a pin of Freedom's Gonzalo Hernandez at the one minute, 17 second mark. He then defeated Marcus Lillard of Livermore 10-6 and Ivan Ramirez of St. Helena 2-1 in the quarterfinals. Then Nichols upset No. 1 seed Kris Osterloh of Miramonte 7-5 in double overtime of the semifinals.

Staff writers Mike McGreehan and Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

Girls

FROM PAGE 1

scored 24 points to lead all scorers.

St. Mary's 66, St. Joseph Notre Dame 28: The host Panthers (13-9, 9-1 BSAL) took a 16-3 first-quarter lead and didn't look back on Friday. Christina Johnson led all scorers with 16 points. **SOCCER**

Berkeley 9, Richmond 0: The host Yellow Jackets took a 7-0

halftime lead on Feb. 2. Kristina Hall scored four goals in the game for Berkeley (11-0-1 ACCAL at press time).

Piedmont 2, Berkeley 1: After Zulma Munoz gave visiting Berkeley a 1-0 lead at the 17-minute mark, the Highlanders scored a pair of second-half goals to win on Saturday.

El Cerrito 3, Hercules 1: The visiting Gauchos (9-3-3, 7-2-2 ACCAL at press time) received a goal and two assists from Alica Buder in the win on Feb. 2.

St. Mary's 4, St. Joseph

Notre Dame 2: Kristen White had a goal and two assists as the visiting Panthers (14-2-3, 11-2-3 BSAL at press time) defeated the Pilots on Friday.

Salesian 2, Albany 1: Megan Moss scored an unassisted goal at the 54-minute mark, but Salesian's Clarissa Ramirez scored the game-winner at the 73-minute mark Friday at Cougar Field.

Staff writer Phil Jensen and correspondent Ben Enos contributed to this roundup.

Gale

FROM PAGE 1

Survival Clinic will be held from 9 a.m. on Feb. 25 until 4 p.m. on Feb. 26 at Fort Hunter Liggett in Monterey County.

The cost for participating is \$50 and space is limited. Participants will learn how to effectively read and understand the different maps used in land navigation. They also will learn how to understand compass bearings and a global positioning satellite system.

The clinic will cover survival kits and first aid, as well as

how to cross streams and rivers and build emergency shelters. Instructors also will teach different wilderness techniques to collect water, start fires, and signal for help. Accommodations for the weekend will be at the military barracks with two students to a room. Bathroom and shower facilities are available in the barracks. Meals cost \$9 a day and are in the military dining hall. Individuals interested in attending clinics can print registration forms from DFG's Hunter Education Program web page at www.dfg.ca.gov/huntclincs. The deadline for registration

and fees is Sunday.

Completed forms must be sent with a check for the course's cost to the Department of Fish and Game, Advanced Hunter Education Program, 601 Locust St., Redding, CA 96001. For more information, contact Susan Hergesell at sherges@dfg.ca.gov or call 530-347-3980.

Contact Mike Gale at 925-930-6150, by e-mail at mgale@cc-times.com or by writing P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail sports@cc-times.com to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501(c)(3) to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

BASEBALL

EBBA Powerhouse — Tryouts by appointment for ages 10U-16U for Pinole-based team. To schedule tryout call Darrell Ard, 510-776-0337 or e-mail, coachardrll_8@hotmail.com. Visit www.eteamz.active.com/powerhousebaseball-10.

Pinole Baseball — Looking for players for 14U traveling tournament team. For more information call, 510-669-0733.

BASKETBALL

North American Youth Basketball Tournament — Registration for boys and girls, grades 5-12, through March 10. Tournament runs March 31-April 2 at Alameda High School, 2201 Encinal Ave. Guaranteed two-game minimum. \$125. Ed Ruiz, 510-532-7301.

Alameda Island Blazers — Tryouts for 7th-grade boys team Feb. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Alameda High School (old gym), 2201 Encinal Ave., Feb. 13, 6-7:30 p.m., Alameda Point gym. \$20 (covers insurance and gym expenses). 510-522-7555 or e-mail, mrtzn@comcast.net.

East Bay Xplosion — Tryouts for Spring teams, ages 10U-17U, Feb. 11 and 25 at a location and time to be determined. For more information call, 209-380-5440. Visit www.league-lineup.com/ebx.

Alameda Power Hoops — Tryouts for girls AAU team, grades 6-7, Feb. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Alameda High School (corner of Oak and Alameda). For more information e-mail, tpatrdts@aol.com.

BYA Basketball Leagues — Sign-ups for All Net Basketball, boys and girls ages 9-11, Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley. \$20-\$25. Reservations: 510-845-9066 or e-mail, sports@byaonline.org.

Excellence in Basketball — Looking for boys, grades 6-12, for competitive AAU-type club league. Teams based in Antioch, Walnut Creek, Piedmont and Danville. Scholarships for hardship cases. 925-736-8741.

FOOTBALL

Hercules High School — Looking for a week two and scrimmage opponent for all levels next season. For more information contact Matt Felder, 510-245-5000.

FUND-RAISER

Cougar Classic — Feb. 10, noon shotgun start, Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Shasta Road, Berkeley. Proceeds benefit Albany High School golf team. \$35 (high school players), \$75 (adults). Fred Brown, 510-604-2282 or e-mail, mackykraus@speakeasy.net.

GENERAL

Diablo Valley College Athletic Hall of Fame — Diablo Valley College is trying to locate former Vikings athletes from its 1970 state championship wrestling team, 1973 state champion men's swim team and 1978 state champion women's swim team for its first Hall of Fame banquet on Feb. 9 at the Crowne Plaza of Concord. Athletes from those teams should contact DVC athletic director Steve Ward at 925-685-1230, ext. 2742.

LACROSSE

UC Berkeley Lacrosse Clinic — For experienced players, grades 6-12, Feb. 11 (girls)-12 (boys), 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Maxwell and Memorial Fields, Memorial Stadium, Berkeley. Skills clinic run by Cal lacrosse coaching staff to develop younger players. \$80. 510-642-8050 or visit, www.calbears.com.

Skyline Lacrosse — Online registration for boys, grades 2-4 and 7-8; and girls, grades 2-8, at www.skylinelacrosse.com. 510-595-8038.

SOCCER

Albany/Berkeley Soccer Club — Registration for boys and girls, ages 5-18, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Feb. 13 and 16, 6-9:30 p.m., Cornell School, 901 Cornell Ave., Albany. For online registration, visit: www.sportability.com. 510-528-4468 or e-mail, abs2register@yahoo.com.

SOFTBALL

Oakland Girls Softball — Online registration ongoing for Spring season, ages 7-14, at www.ogsl.org. Season begins in March. 510-339-7268.

JOBS

Meadow Swim and Tennis Club — Job opening for tennis director at Orinda-based club. Small but active four-court club for youths and adults. Position begins April 1. Tracy Ellman, 925-254-9344 or e-mail, tracy_ellman@yahoo.com.

Miramonte High School — Accepting applications for head varsity boys volleyball coach. Vince Del-Aquila, 925-280-3930, Ext. 3451.

Carondelet High School — Accepting applications for track and field print and distance coaches. Season begins Feb. 6. 925-686-5353, Ext. 168 or e-mail, ggreen@carondelets.org.

Livorno Swim Team — Seeking experienced swim coaches for Walnut Creek-based organization. Season runs late April-August. Bill, 925-930-9032 or e-mail, director@livornadolphins.com.

Pleasant Hill Aquatics — Seeking assistant coach for recreational swim team. Season runs May-August. For more information, 925-323-8280 or e-mail, dfarresq@earthlink.net.

Northgate High School — Head coaching vacancy for junior varsity softball. Bob Johnson, athletic director, 925-938-0900, Ext. 3520.

Berean Christian High School — Vacancies for junior varsity baseball coaches who must adhere to school's statement of faith. Craig Lee, 925-945-6464 or e-mail, coachlee@astound.net.

Clayton Valley High School — Vacancies for following coaching positions: assistant track; junior varsity girl's lacrosse; and freshman softball. For track, e-mail resume to James Goodwin, jnyce@mail.com; for other positions, e-mail resume to Pat Midendorff, pm258@aol.com.

San Ramon Valley High School — Looking for qualified assistant

coaches for junior varsity and man softball teams. Maria No, 925-837-6178 or e-mail, marvay@comcast.net. Also, varsity girls volleyball coach. Email John Raynor, 209-544-4111, jraynor@srvhs.org.

Las Lomas High School — Looking for coaches for varsity and city swimming and diving, lacrosse and a jumping and coach for track. Contact Linda or Lyn Zusman, 925-935-4111, lsawyer@acalanes.k12ca.gov.

Richmond High School — Seeking umpires for first place and baseball for upcoming state Leagues based in Contra Costa. Alameda and Solano counties begin for several seasons in late January. \$40-\$65 per game. 510-301-2928.

St. Mary's College High School — Accepting applications for coaching positions: head and assistant softball coach. Denis Mar, 510-559-6218.

Pinole Valley High School — Seeking assistant varsity baseball coaches. Ben Juarez, 925-344-4111.

Springwood Swim Team — Accepting applications for coaches and organized assistant coaches for swimmers ages 4-18, July-April-August, 2006. Denise Lee, 925-439-8070, or e-mail, den5675297@aol.com.

St. Joseph Notre Dame — Coaching vacancies for following spring sports: head boys varsity basketball; head boys and girls swimming; assistant varsity basketball; head junior varsity basketball; head junior varsity softball. Call Curry, 510-814-7146, or e-mail, dcurry@sjnd.org.

Campolindo High School — Seeking following spring coaching positions: head varsity and city girls lacrosse; diving, and junior varsity boys volleyball. Call son, 925-280-3950, Ext. 526. E-mail, bwilson@acalanes.k12ca.gov.

Wilson Prep — Seeking junior and junior varsity football coaches; and head junior varsity ball coach for Oakland school. Call, 415-652-7726, or e-mail, bisa.roseby@asprepublicschools.org.

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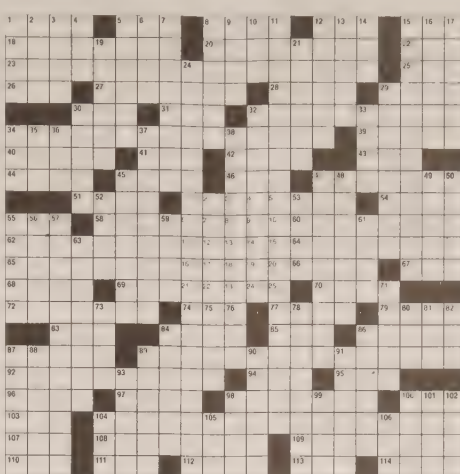
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE By ERIC BERLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

The eight theme answers in this puzzle are clues to common words. When the grid has been filled, guess those missing words and enter them on the numbered dashes shown. Then transfer each letter from a dash to its correspondingly numbered square in the middle of the grid. Every letter in the middle will be used twice in the missing words. When you're done, the 25 squares, in order, will reveal a bit of advice about getting ahead.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Father of Magnus the Good
5 "Uh-huh"
8 Pressure: Prefix
12 "There ___ goes"
15 Mrs. in Madrid
18 Auto with a trident logo
20 Far from home, perhaps
22 "If only ___ listened..."
23 "___"
25 Latin 101 word
26 Suffix with violin
27 Radio advice-giver
28 "Outta here"
29 Quarrel
30 Corp. bigwig
31 5% of a C-note
32 Like many adherents to
33 Down
- 43 Fowl soldiers, Abbr.
44 Classic gas brand
45 Level
46 Baby kisser, maybe, in brief
47 Hard times
51 Fraction of a nun
53 Parsian article
54 "___ Baby"
55 Suffix of approximation
58 Suez
60 Like many sports interviews
62 Place for Us and Them
64 How bananas are bought
65 Breaking news
66 Mighty boss's opposite
67 River at Ghent
68 Actor Guinness
69 "Brit Farrar" mystery writer
70 Turning point?
72 Place on a TV?
74 Woman in a personal ad: Abbr.
75 Hang
79 Road
83 Good times
84 Code in which many Web pages are written: Abbr.
85 Suffix with Capri
86 Bit of Gothic architecture

For any three answers, call for a touch-tone phone: 1-800-285-6556. \$1.20 each puzzle; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.



- 9 Reebok rival
10 Lawyer's thing
11 Something that gets copied
12 Fishing nets
13 ___ cow
14 Compass point
15
24 8 20 16 11
16 Observation
17 Pretties
19 Places for clowns
21 Hip's opposite
24 Arrow's place
29 It started about
2 1/2 million years ago
30 Storage medium
32 Japanese soup
33 It may leave its mark
34 The "vey" of "toy vey!"
35 They often have photos
36 Refrains
37 Red squirrel named for the sound it makes
38 Upholstery problem
45
47 How many proposals are delivered
48
49 British tar
50 Burpee product
52 Slow-cooked meal
53 Start of Superman's catchphrase
55 See 32-Across
56 Reach the top of
57
58
59 Votes
61 "___ clock scholar"
63 New members
71 Weave
73 Some time ago
74 Subs
75 One rationale for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Abbr.
76 "Alice" waitress
77 Baked entree
78 Kind of cable for a computer
80 Stomach muscles, for short
81 Day
82 Poetic time of day
84 Car known for its storage space
86 Staples of annual reports
87 One way to run
88 Bloody drunk
89 Break
90 "Our ___"
91 Connect, in a way
93 Say "tsk" to
98 Historic Normandy town
99 California's Valley
100 Three oceans touch it
101 Ring wins, briefly
102 Access diary
104 Two-bagger Abbr.
105 Biomed group
106 Lao

Movies

FROM PAGE C3

whiny Brooks heads to India to learn what makes Muslims laugh at the behest of the U.S. government. Brooks, so good in "Broadcast News" and "Defending Your Life," serves up clunky jokes and feeble commentary. After a promising start, it turns painfully unfunny. — R. Myers. (PG-13: drug content, brief strong language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. D+

"THE MATADOR": Pierce Brosnan plays against type as Julian, an international assassin facing a serious career meltdown, who strikes up an unlikely friendship with struggling, straight-arrow businessman Danny (Greg Kinnear). The two meet over margaritas in a hotel bar in Mexico City, then go their separate ways soon after. But something has happened between them that we won't know until six months later, when Julian shows up at Danny's door. It seems the hit man has one more job to do before he can retire and he wants — demands — Danny's help. — J. Mathews. (R: strong sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B

"MATCH POINT": Woody Allen takes on a new game and, for the most part, scores. The movie, set in England instead of New York, pays homage to film noir with its dark themes. Jonathan Rhys Meyers stars as a tennis pro smitten with his new, upper-crust friend's fiancée (Scarlett Johansson). The film-school symbolism and tennis metaphors can be a bit much, but that can almost be ignored in a movie filled with suppress and snappy exchanges. — R. Myers. (R: some sexuality.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B

"MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA": This beautiful epic based on the best-selling 1997 novel plays up the soap-opera elements as it chronicles the life of a pre-WWII geisha. Ziyi Zhang ("House of Flying Daggers") plays Sayuri, a geisha of great acclaim who finds herself terribly infatuated with an older man (Ken Watanabe) who seems barely aware of her existence. As directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), "Geisha" caresses our senses with its breathtaking imagery and lush photography, but what ultimately results is a slightly shallow version that emphasizes the melodrama. — R. Myers. (PG-13: mature subject matter and some sexual content.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B

"MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS": This mildly naughty and fitfully entertaining comedy/drama finds Judi Dench playing a familiar role, that of an upstart widow who likes to engage in a battle of wits with anyone she encounters. Dench is indeed delightful as Laura Henderson, proprietor of a vaudeville theater where the actresses go nude to buoy business,

and Bob Hoskins as the manager she hires. But the tone slipping away the comedy drama and the resulting humor isn't gel. — R. Myers. (R: mature brief language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. C+

"MUNICH": Director Steven Spielberg creates another masterpiece, this harrowing, fictionalized account of the fallout involved when the U.S. government demands retribution after the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. Eric Bana ("Troy") picks off the masterminds of the attack, asks us to consider the cost — and human toll — of political vendettas. — R. Myers. (R: graphic violence, some sexual content, nudity and language.) 2 hours, 44 minutes. A

"NANNY MCPHEE": Emma Thompson wrote and stars in this. Done up with hairy warts and glee, she's the latest member of seven unruly children living in an English countryside. The Aunt (Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury) is great time, and "McPhee" is ways pleasant, if less than the elements, some rude humor (language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

"THE NEW WORLD": The tale by iconoclastic filmmaker Terrence Malick ("The Thin Red Line") is achingly beautiful, but the movie with more voice-over narrative dialogue. Colin Farrell is John, a settler and Native American. — R. Myers. (PG-13: intense battle sequences.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. B+

"PRIDE & PREJUDICE": This brings robust energy and spirit to the Jane Austen classic about romance and class complications. Knightley makes a fine heroine, pluck and a thing for that snob Mr. Darcy (Matthew Macfadyen). The two take a while to get to sparks firing, but once they do, turn this beloved story into a comedy that holds up, even compared with earlier versions. — R. Myers. (PG: some mild thematic elements.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A

"THE PRODUCERS": A little more than a filmed Broadway hit, this off-color comedy about a producer (Nathan Lane) and an accountant (Matthew Broderick) who try to turn a profit by theater's hugest flop is still the best parts of funniness. Brooks' ribald, loving send-up of Broadway occur when the show "Springtime for Hitler" debuts tastelessness. Will Ferrell as the show's Hitler-loving playwright, the rest of the supporting cast is light. — R. Myers. (PG-13: humor and references.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. B

Events

HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND —

"New Era, New Politics Walking Tour," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. The two-hour guided walking tour is conducted by the City of Oakland's Oakland Tours program and features the historic points of interest in African American history in downtown Oakland. The tour also recounts Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s visits to Oakland.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH —

"A Tribute to African Heritage" Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. A production of "The Maafa." \$15 adults, \$8 seniors and students, \$5 children 6 and older, free for children 5 and under. (510) 544-8924.

8501 International Blvd., Oakland.

ASHBY STAGE —

"LUNA" Feb. 16 through March 12, 8 p.m. Created and performed by the Sun and Moon Ensemble. A theater performance with drama, dance, humor, giant puppets, masks, and live music. \$15, general; \$10 seniors and students; Thursday "pay as you wish." (415) 621-7978.

1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley.

CAL PERFORMANCES — All performances in Zellerbach Hall unless otherwise noted.

"Peru Negro," Feb. 17, 8 p.m. The performance, part of the "Celebracion de las Culturas de Iberoamerica," involves 20 musicians, singers and dancers who have been appointed official Cultural Ambassadors of Black Peru by the Peruvian governments. \$22 to \$40.

Madrid's Noche Flamenca, Feb. 18

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ALEC TEYKWH KNOB
MELROSE SWF FEND RAGE
FUN RTML OTE GABLE
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GARTESJANS APE LAD
ANDIS GARD STIR SUB ATT
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through Feb. 19. Noche Flamenca of Madrid, one of the world's premier flamenco companies, performs as part of the "Celebracion de las Culturas de Iberoamerica," the programming initiative to bring Latin American, Spanish and Caribbean performing arts to the Bay Area. Saturday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 7 p.m. \$24 to \$48.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY —

The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Feb. 19, 3 p.m. Benjamin Simon, directing. Guest cellist: Matt Haimovitz. Features work of Bach, Aida and Schoenberg. Free.

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE —

Cheryl Wheeler, Kenny White, Feb. 14 and Feb. 15. \$24.50 to \$25.50.

Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, Feb. 16. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Junius Courtney Big Band, Feb. 17. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Bill Tapia, Feb. 18. \$20.50 to \$21.50.

"Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies," Feb. 19. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761 or www.freightandsalvage.org.

HERTZ HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY —

Jonathan Biss, Feb. 19, 3 p.m. A piano concert of works by Beethoven, Spatari, Schoenberg and Schumann. \$42.

UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley.

LAKE MERRITT HOTEL —

"Hearts A Fire," Feb. 14, 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. A romantic evening of dining and dancing with enchanting views of Lake Merritt. The evening includes a four course dinner with champagne and dancing to the music of The Dennis Donovan Band. Reservations required.

First Dinner Seating: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Gala Dinner Seating: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Music: 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. \$100 per couple. (510) 903-3771.

1800 Madison St., Oakland.

MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER

"Dancing into the Future: Annual Black Choreographers Festival," Feb. 17 through Feb. 19. A celebration of black dance in its many forms of expression and many spheres of influence.

Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Family matinee, Sunday, 3 p.m. \$15 to \$20 general; \$15 students and seniors; \$10 family matinee.

1428 Alice St., Oakland.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA —

"The Art of Seeing: Nature Revealed Through Illustration," Feb. 18 through June 4. A visual celebration of California's biological diversity and unique environment. The juried exhibition showcases a variety of media.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Black Beauties: The History of Oakland's Miss Bronze Pageant," Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. Author Maxine Craig will discuss how black women have negotiated the intersection of race, class, politics and personal appearance in their lives.

"Family Explorations! Musical Masterpieces: Making Art, Making Music," Feb. 19, noon to 4 p.m. Explore works by African American artists and listen to the "Just Say Jazz" musicians play riffs inspired by reactions

See EVENTS, Page C6

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Ask the expert: Should I buy a new car or fix up my old one?

Answer: I answer this question quite a bit since many of my customers are concerned with the cost of repairs.

There are actually several things to consider when thinking about the purchase of another vehicle. You must first get the calculator out, do some addition and answer some questions:

1. Do you have the down payment saved?
2. Are you prepared for monthly payments?
3. Do you realize that registration for new cars is triple the cost of older ones.

New cars require full coverage insurance and depending on what type of car you purchase and what ages the drivers are this can cost a few thousand dollars a year.

The type of driving you plan to do is another factor. If you commute 50 miles a day it makes more sense to purchase a new car. A new car will get better gas mileage and most makes will be more reliable than your older car. However, if you take BART or public transportation to work or if the car gets driven for local trips only and an occasional weekend outing then it probably makes more sense to keep your older vehicle.

You must also remember that new cars are not maintenance free. Most new car warranties do not cover oil changes, services, brakes, tires and many rubber components. New cars are also more expensive to repair due to the high cost of electronic components and the difficulty in isolating the problem.

If you consider keeping and maintaining your older car you must first look at how much it costs you. I suggest people figure out how much they are spending on non-maintenance repairs. Take five years worth of repair orders and receipts exclude the maintenance repairs which are oil changes, services, tires, alignments and any repairs that are caused by driver negligence like mirrors, taillights and any interior/exterior damage, as these items would be needed on a new car. Total these and then divide by the number of years you

have receipts for. Remember, there will be years when you have big ticket items like a transmission or head gasket etc. If the non-maintenance repairs total \$1200.00 per year for Volvo or \$800.00 per year for Toyota you maybe spending too much and it may be time to move on to another vehicle.

Purchasing a pre-owned vehicle is often the best choice. When buying a used car it is important to know the history but don't rely solely on records, as the seller may not have kept every receipt. I recommend a pre-purchase rather than a post-purchase inspection. It's smart to know what you're buying. Too many times I've had to tell customers their new "used" vehicle need hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars worth of repair. At Bob's Volvo-Toyota Specialists we perform a comprehensive pre-purchase inspection for Volvo, Toyota and Honda automobiles. This allows you to look at what repairs have been done, what needs to be done and how much it will cost prior to the actual purchase. Whatever car you choose seek the advice of a specialist in that model before you buy. Ask questions regarding average mileage, repair costs, resale value etc. The answers you receive will allow you to make an educated choice.


Once you look at what you're spending on repair, your savings account balance and the type of driving you do the path should be clear to either buy a new car, buy a used car or keep and repair your old car.

Again I hope this answers some of the questions you have regarding keeping or selling your car.

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Events

FROM PAGE C4

to the art. Watch painting demonstrations, paint to live music in the Art Studio and create a musical masterpiece.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free for children ages 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Special events are free with museum admission unless noted otherwise. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (510) 238-2200 or www.museumca.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM —

"Living Ship Demonstration," Feb. 18. The event commemorates Black History Month and includes speakers Woodie Spears, LeRoy Gilleard and Les Williams. Participants are given the opportunity to experience the operations of a floating airfield through simulated flight operations and special activities. \$14 general; \$6 kids; \$20 family.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors, students and youth ages 12 to 18; free children under age 12 and UC Berkeley students; free to all on first Thursday of the month. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 2826 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE —

"Human Rights Watch International Film Festival," Feb. 19 through Feb. 26. Each year the festival's programming committee screens more than 500 films and videos to create a program that represents a range of countries and issues. The festival's featured films have been chosen because of their artistic merit and human rights content. Feb. 19, 3 p.m.; Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25, 7 p.m. and 8:35 p.m.; Feb. 26, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:40 p.m.; Feb. 26, 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. www.hrw.org/fff. Single feature: \$8 general; \$5 seniors, disabled persons and youth ages 17 and under. Double feature: \$12 general; \$9 seniors, disabled persons and youth ages 17 and under. FFA Theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-5249 or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

YOSHI'S —

"Heart and Soul: A Valentine's Celebration with Kitty Margolis," Feb. 14, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. \$12 to \$18. Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, Feb. 15 through Feb. 19. \$20 to \$24 general; Matinee: \$5 children.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. (510) 238-9200 or www.yoshis.com.

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND —

Ongoing. The Oakland Public Library's museum is designed to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, a three-panel mural is on permanent display.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

ALAMEDA MUSEUM —

Ongoing. The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.

Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org.

BADE MUSEUM AT THE PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION —

Ongoing. The museum's collections include the Tell en-Nasbeh Collection, consisting of artifacts excavated from Tell en-Nasbeh in Palestine in 1926 and 1935 by William Badt, and the Howell Bible Collection, featuring approximately 300 rare books (primarily Bibles) dating from the 15th through the 18th centuries.

Free. Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holbrook Hall, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0528 or <http://bade.psr.edu/bade>.

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS —

Ongoing. A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the mu-

seum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM —

CLOSED UNTIL APRIL — Ongoing. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate layouts as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N-scale layout showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. The layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. VIEW THE LAYOUTS ONLY ON SATURDAYS; WATCH TRAINS RUN ON THE LAYOUTS ON SUNDAYS.

Free on Saturday. \$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; \$7 families on Sunday. April through December: Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900 Dornan Drive, Point Richmond. (510) 234-4884 or www.gsmmm.org.

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM —

Ongoing. A museum especially for children ages 7 and under. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"Waterworks." A water play gallery with rivers, a pumping station and a water table, designed to teach about water.

"Little Town Grocery and Cafe." Designed to create the ambience of shopping in a grocery store and eating in a restaurant.

"Infant-Toddler Garden." A picket fence gated indoor area, which includes a carrot patch with wooden carrots to be harvested, a pretend pond and a butterfly mobile to introduce youngsters to the concept of food, gardening and agriculture.

"Dramatic Arts Stage." Settings, backdrops and costumes coincide with seasonal events and holidays. Children can exercise their dramatic flair here.

"Wiggle Wall." The floor-to-ceiling "underground" tunnels give children a worm's eye view of the world. The tunnels are lined with net covered openings and giant optical lenses.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

"Jazz Thursdays at Habitat Children's Museum," Feb. 2 through Feb. 23. Every Thursday in February, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., the museum will present live and recorded music performances that reflect the contributions of African-American composers. Free.

\$5 general; \$6 children ages 7 and under; free children ages 12 months and under. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. (510) 647-1111 or www.habitot.org.

HALL OF HEALTH —

Ongoing. A community health-education museum and science center promoting wellness and individual responsibility for health. There are hands-on exhibits that teach about the workings of the human body, the value of a healthy diet and exercise, and the destructive effects of smoking and drug abuse. "Kids on the Block" puppet shows, which use puppets from diverse cultures to teach about and promote acceptance of conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, leukemia, blindness, arthritis and spina bifida, are available by request for community events and groups visiting the Hall on Saturdays.

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an Exercycle for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their

bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested \$3 donation; free for children under age 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM —

Ongoing. The museum's permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historical artists.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS —

"Houses and Housings: Portability in Jewish Faith and Culture," Aug. 29 through May 15. An exhibit of works from the museum's permanent collection, including religious and secular text panels, ritual objects, paintings, prints and sculpture.

"Revisions — Larry Abramson: Searching for an Ideal City," Sept. 12 through Feb. 19. An installation created for the museum, using objects such as silver spice boxes and Hanukkah lamps to build a model skyline representing Jerusalem.

\$6 general; \$4 students and seniors; free for children under age 12. Sunday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. (510) 549-6950 or www.magnes.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM —

Ongoing. The collection includes over 6,000 objects, approximately 4,000 prints and drawings, 900 textiles, 200 paintings, and 900 small ceramics and sculptures. Each season works from the museum's permanent collection are shown along with the regular season's program.

Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 5000 Markarth Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2164 or www.mills.edu.

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE —

Ongoing. A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient times to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Cafe, science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes.

\$6 general; \$4 children ages 6 to 18. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. (510) 893-6426 or www.ncalblackengineers.org.

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART —

Ongoing. A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

ART CAMPS — Hands-on activities and engaging curriculum for children of different ages, led by professional artists and staff. \$60 per day.

CLASSES — A Sunday series of classes for children ages 8 to 12, led by Mocha artists. Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OPEN STUDIOS — Drop-in art play activities with new themes each week.

"Big Studio." Guided art projects for children age 6 and older with a Mocha artist. Tuesday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$5.

"Little Studio." A hands-on experience that lets young artists age 18 months to 5 years see, touch and manipulate a variety of media. Children can get

messy. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5.

"Family Weekend Studios." Drop-in art activities for the whole family. All ages welcome. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. \$5 per child.

FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZAS — Special weekend workshops for the entire family.

"Sunday Workshops with Illustrators," Sundays, 1 p.m. See the artwork and meet the artists who create children's book illustrations. Free.

Free gallery admission. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 538 Ninth St., Oakland. (510) 465-8770 or www.mocha.org.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA —

Ongoing.

ONGOING EVENTS —

"Art a la Carte," Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Free with museum admission.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Free with general admission unless otherwise noted.

"Benefit Author Reception with Chitra Divakaruni," Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet the author, enjoy Indian refreshments and a poetry and music performance with Pireeti Sundaralingam. \$50.

Chitra Divakaruni, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The author will read from her book.

"Black Beauties: The History of Oakland's Miss Bronze Pageant," Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. Dr. Maxine Leeds Craig, professor and author, presents this Black History Month lecture. Free.

"Family Explorations! Musical Masterpieces: Making Art, Making Music" Feb. 19, noon to 4 p.m. Watch painting demonstrations, create your own art and listen to live music during this family event. The day ends with a presentation of art created by families accompanied by a jazz performance.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS —

"The Latino Baseball Story: Photographs by Jose Luis Villegas," Sept. 17 through May 28. An exhibit of 60 photographs documenting young Latinos and their dreams of becoming baseball stars in the United States.

"Oakland's Coach: The Legacy of

George Powles," Sept. 17 through Feb. 26. An exhibit dedicated to the man who coached baseball, basketball and football at McClymonds, a predominantly black high school in Oakland, from 1947 to 1975, and who influenced the lives of Frank Robinson, Curt Flood, Joe Morgan and Bill Russell.

"Enrique Martinez Celaya: Works on Paper," Nov. 19 through March 26. An exhibit of works on paper exploring longing, loss and temptation by the artist, poet and writer.

"Edward Weston: Masterworks from the Collection," Jan. 7 through June 11. An exhibit of more than 50 photographs by Weston from the museum's collection, including portraits, landscapes, nudes and still lifes.

"The Art of Seeing: Nature Revealed Through Illustration," Feb. 18 through June 4. A visual celebration of California's biological diversity and unique environment. The juried exhibition showcases a variety of media.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free for children ages 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Special events are free with museum admission unless noted otherwise. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (510) 238-2200 or www.museumca.org.

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM —

Ongoing. The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended.

\$5 general; free for children ages 12 and under. House Tours: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. 672 11th St., Oakland. (510) 444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org.

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY —

Ongoing. Permanent exhibits highlight Richmond's cultural, industrial and architectural legacy.

\$2 general; \$1 seniors and students. Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 400 Nevin Ave., Richmond. (510) 235-7387 or www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM —

Ongoing.

ONGOING EVENTS —

"First Impressions: Free First Thursdays," first Thursday of every month. Special tours and movie presenta-

tions. Admission is free.

Guided Tours, available 12:15 p.m. and 2 p.m. Guided tours by the university's Art History will give visitors a

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"MATRIX 219: Works on Paper," Feb. 20 through Feb. 27. Works by the Polish artist, Jacek Maciejowski.

"Dreaming California: Through May 21. An exhibit of the reality and illusion of the dream through the work of Area photographers Baruch, Bill Owens and

"Jeanne Dunning: Still Life," Jan. 25 through Feb. 1. An exhibit featuring videos spanning decades of the artist's work. Talk on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

"The Bancroft Library: 1906-2006," Dec. 3. The exhibit is a celebration of the Bancroft Library's 100th anniversary. It showcases objects spanning 200 years.

"Living Ship Demonstration: The event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the USS Intrepid. Woodie Spears, Les Williams, and the opportunity to see simulations of flight operations. \$14 general; \$20 family.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and youth ages 12 to 18; free for children under age 12 and UC students; free to all on the second day, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. a.m. to 7 p.m. 2826 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-

510-642-

Oakland East Bay SYMPHONY
Michael Morgan, Music Director

REDEFINING CLASSICAL MUSIC

Friday, February 24, 8pm
Paramount Theatre
Michael Morgan, conductor
Pre-Concert Talk by Victor Gavenda, 7pm

Dvorák, Stabat Mater
A work of spiritual intensity and powerful emotion

With Oakland Symphony Chorus and soloists Hope Briggs, Lisa van der Ploeg, Kalil Wilson and Craig Phillips

Written at a time of great sorrow for the composer, who had lost 3 young children in just 2 years, *Stabat Mater* is a musical exploration of Mary's sorrow at her son's crucifixion and her ultimate affirmation of faith

Also on the program: *Mozart's Overture to Lucio Silla*

Can't Inside the Music with Concert Companion? New interpretive aid available at this concert!

TICKETS: \$15-\$60
510-625-TIXS and Ticketmaster outlets
Paramount Box Office 218 & 18th Ave., Oakland (no serv chg)
Online www.oeb.org (print your tickets at home)
Information: 510-444-0801

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Valentine's Day Happy Hour
7am-7pm

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WWW.CARDINALPOINTCCRC.COM



THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu

Juanita's Home Style Mexican Cooking

APPETIZERS

QUESADILLA
On corn or flour tortilla.....\$3.50

NACHOS CHICOS

Small order. Corn chips topped w/fried beans, melted cheese, fresh salsa, sour cream, guacamole & jalapeños.
With any meat, just add \$1.25.....\$4.25

JUANITA'S APPETIZER

Nachos, salsa, cream guacamole, quesadilla, 2 flautas, 2 stuffed jalapeños.
With meat add \$1.50.....\$9.50

CARNE ASADA BURRITO

Grilled steak, rice, beans and fresh salsa...\$4.75

CHICKEN or PORK TAMALES

Topped with red sauce and cheese.....\$3.00

CRISPY & SOFT TACOS

With cheese, salsa and lettuce (chicken, beef, chile verde).....\$3.00

SOPEs or TOSTADAS

With choice of beef, chicken, chile verde, (pork) or carne asada. With fried beans, salad, salsa, cheese, sour cream and guacamole.....\$3.95

MEXICAN MEALS

All served with rice, beans and tortillas

CHILE VERDE.....Half order \$6.75
Pork chunks in green tomatillo sauce.....\$7.95

CHILE COLORADO.....Half Order \$6.75
Sirloin steak cutlets in our tasty red sauce....\$7.95

CARNE ASADA

Tender sirloin steak grilled to perfection, with salad & french fries.....\$9.75

CHILAQUILES VERDES con POLLO

A tortilla dish with chicken and green sauce \$8.95

FAJITAS

Steak or chicken breast strips.....\$10.50

POZOLE

Pork chunks and hominy in red sauce served only with tostadas.....\$8.95

JUANITA'S PLATE

Soft grilled steak with five jumbo shrimps...\$12.95

CALDO de POLLO.....Half order \$6.95
Served only with rice and tortillas.....\$8.50

BURRITO FAMOSO With any meat, topped with enchilada sauce and cheese.....\$6.50

MEXICAN MEALS

MENUDO

Soft beef cutlets on tasty red broth. Half order \$6.95
With tortillas only.....\$7.95

TOSTADA ESPECIAL

With any meat, cheese, salad, onions, cream & guacamole.....\$6.95

SEA FOOD

CALDO de Camarones

Shrimp broth with tasty vegetables.....\$11.95

CAMARONES a la DIABLA

Large shrimp in very hot sauce with rice, beans and our handmade tortillas.....\$11.95

PESCADO FRITO

Bull fish with fries, salad, rice, beans and tortillas.

DESSERTS

FLAN

Custard Slice.....\$2.50

CAKE

Strawberry Cheesecake, Pastel Tres Leches, Chocolate, Fruitcake, Slice.....\$3.95



Pier 29

Waterfront Restaurant

Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail

Valentine's Day

DINNER SPECIAL FOR 2 \$59.95

Clam Chowder Soup

Caesar Salad

Crab Cake Appetizer

Prime Rib and Sauteed Prawns

Homemade Chocolate Mousse and Cookie

Dinner Served 3:00 PM-10:00 PM

Lobster Tail, Steak, Fresh Oyster, Clam, Rack of Lamb, Pork Loin Chop, Pasta and more!

300 29th Avenue, Oakland • 261-1621

Weekend Brunch: 9am-3pm

At the foot of the Park St. Bridge in Oakland. Next to the Estuary.

Plenty of Free Parking. Banquet Facility Available

Café Enrico

Since 1978, 875D Island Drive, Alameda, (510) 522-0128

For fine Italian dining at its best, visit Café Enrico overlooking the beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon. Full bar service features special cocktails daily with exceptional wine selections. From gourmet seafood plates to Old World pastas, chicken dishes, sandwiches and even a dieter's menu, Café Enrico truly offers something to please everyone. In fact, many guests dine in two and three times a week. House specialty steamed (Manila clams and fresh seafood cioppino) are not to be missed. Café Enrico is open daily Sat & Sun Brunch is served until 3 pm and Early Bird Specials (12.95) are served Mon-Fri until 6 pm and Sat & Sun until 5 pm. For Reservations, please call (510) 522-0129. MC, Visa, AME, handicap access. Casual attire. \$5

Juanita's

1324 Park Street, Alameda (510) 865-2588

Juanita's has been serving home style Mexican cooking since 1975 to generations of Bay Area diners. Patrons enjoy a margarita or cold cerveza at Juanita's with their choice of delicious Mexican appetizers and entrees. Including everyone's favorite - tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. AC \$\$ FB W

Katsu Sushi

1465 Webster Street, Alameda, (510) 749-8461

West Alameda's newest restaurant, Katsu Sushi, invites guests to an upscale dining experience with classic simplicity. Chef Sang Kim prepares all dishes from scratch and seafood is brought in fresh, directly from Japan. The menu is extensive, ranging from an extraordinary selection of sushi and sashimi, Udon/Soba, Donburi (over rice dishes), to pasta and an impressive variety of sake. Architect Duk Lee has created a dramatic backdrop for guests, marrying modern art with traditional design elements. Attention to even the most minor aesthetic detail is also mirrored in the elegant presentation of Katsu's dishes, offerings that are as much a work of art to the palate as to the eye. Katsu is open for lunch Mon.-Fri. from 11:30am to 2:30pm and open for dinner Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. from 5-9:30pm. Fri & Sat. 5-10pm. Reservations recommended.

Montclair Bistro

6118 Medau Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chef Henry Vortziere's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Metrix Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings." The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flare and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit www.montclairbistro.com.

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular early bird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

Sushi House

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda (510) 865-0999

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses w/unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef/owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried w/house special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Sale Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$\$

Amarin Thai Cuisine

1332 C Park St., Alameda CA 94501 (510) 748-0296

For 16 years, we have catered to Alameda with delicious, award-winning food and warm service in a friendly atmosphere. Make a normal day, your special day, by dining here at Amarin Thai. Celebrate Senior Citizens every Wednesday. We recognize and value your patronage and are offering 10% discount off your dining experience. Celebrate families every Saturday. Our family is very important to us and so is yours! Bring in your family and dine with us and receive a 10% off your meal. Our private banquet facility can accommodate large parties with great service and scrumptious food. Celebrate your holidays at Amarin Thai with Delicious, inviting, and affordable holiday planning. We are offering 10% off parties of 20 or more on reservations by December 15th.



Valentine's Day Menu

SEAFOOD & MUSHROOM CHOWDER SOUP

OR

SPRING SHOKED SALMON SALAD BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

ENTRÉE

- ROASTED ORANGE DUCK WITH PORTWINE SAUCE
- BAKED VEAL
- WITH SHITAKE MUSHROOMS, EGGPLANT & TOPPED WITH MOZZARELLA CHEESE
- TREASURY BOX FROM THE DEEP SEA - LOBSTER, SCALLOPS, PRAWN,
- TARRAGON CREAM SAUCE INSIDE A CRISPY PUFF PASTY & GARLIC MASHED POTATO
- BOILED JUMBO LAMB CHOPS
- ROSEMARY GARLIC SAUCE SIDED WITH FRESH GRILLED PEACH
- BOILED FILET MIGNON
- WITH A 6 OZ PACIFIC LOBSTER TAIL & GARLIC MASHED POTATO

DESSERT

- FRESH FRUIT TORT IN RUM SAUCE



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Open Feb. 13th from 6-9pm
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Sushi House

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Business Hours
Sunday - Thursday
From 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM
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THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu

OUR COMBOS

Complete meals served with rice and beans. Choice for crispy tacos: chicken, ground beef & vegetarian. For enchiladas: cheese, chicken or ground beef. For flautas: cheese or chicken. Grilled meat or carne asada: add \$.75 per item

TWO TACOS & ENCHILADA	\$8.50
TWO TAMALES & A TACO	\$8.50
ENCHILADA, TACO & CHILE RELLENO	\$8.75
TAMALE, TACO & ENCHILADA	\$8.50
TWO GROUND BEEF BURRITOS	\$8.25

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An ample variety of beverages are available in our bar lounge. Champagne, cordials, liquors, wines, imported & domestic beer, non-alcoholic beers, whiskeys, bourbons, cognacs & of course the best imported tequilas

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Voted "The Best Margaritas in Alameda" Regular or strawberry.

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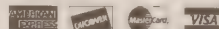
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Juanita's has been serving home style Mexican cooking since 1975 to generations of Bay Area diners. Patrons enjoy a margarita or cold cerveza at Juanita's with their choice of delicious Mexican appetizers and entrees. Including everyone's favorite -- tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. AC \$\$ FB W



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Kamakura

2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (510) 521-9121

Faith Yamato and the chefs of Kamakura present SHARI, the highest quality of rice that envelopes Sushi. The best short grain premium rice available in the USA is used for Kamakura's Sushi. The "Tamanishiki" brand of rice definitely provides the decisive edge in Sushi quality and taste. Following centuries-old Japanese culinary practice, the rice is gently steamed, then seasoned with an aged-vinegar blend, and carefully fanned to cool to achieve the perfect, firm, yet moist texture, pliable but not sticky; there is no shortcut. For authentic, delectable Sushi and original Japanese creations, dine-in, take-out and party catering, visit or contact Kamakura Restaurant, 2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-9121. Wheelchair access, accepting Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover. Open for Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30-2:30; Dinner served daily 5pm-10pm.

Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Mideast food. Owner Moti Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, moussaka (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the cous cous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy early bird specials for only \$7.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

La Pinata 3

1440 Park St., Alameda (510) 769-9111

La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastes (desserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-5pm M-F Weekend Specials and a \$9.50 Sunday Brunch are also available. www.lapinata.com. (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

Sabuy Sabuy II

1233 San Pablo, Berkeley (510) 528-3932

Enjoy Thai cuisine with California flair at the new Sabuy Sabuy II. Your visit will begin with a warm greeting, welcoming you to experience Sabuy Sabuy's specialties: savory soups, salads, delicious meat and Vegetarian dishes, all prepared with only the freshest vegetables and meats by family cooks with decades of experience. Dinner is served M-Sat from 5-9:30pm. Lunch is served daily from 11 am - 3pm with specials starting at \$5.95.

El Cabello

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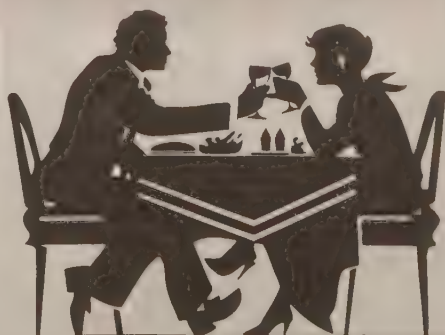
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J.B. ALDERMAN
On DVDs

Time flies watching 'Youth'

THE BEST OF YOUTH

An epic in every sense of the word, this Italian DVD takes cinematic storytelling to a level rarely seen. Running a mammoth six hours, "Youth" builds a rich story around two college-aged brothers on a quest of self-discovery in Italy during the late 1960s.

Like eating a sumptuous 10-course dinner in Italy, this DVD takes pleasure in the process of storytelling. It's not about rushing to the end of the meal or the climactic scene. Instead, the filmmakers build their story with each passing hour, with every subsequent dish complementing the flavors of the ones that went before it. Luigi Lo Cascio and Alessio Boni are masterful as the two brothers who are deeply connected but chose very different paths. Don't be daunted by the DVD's length — this is a great film that is well worth your investment in time. Italian with English subtitles. (R: language). 6 hours and 6 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3½ stars

Kids: N/A

Teens: 2 stars

Adults: 3½ stars

Seniors: 3 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — a titan of a film — just make sure you get a seven-day rental to avoid late fees.

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO

Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones reprise their roles as the Robin Hood and Maid Marion of 1850s San Francisco in this sequel to the popular "The Mask of Zorro". With none-too-subtle comparisons to the current war on terror, the liberty-loving, masked do-gooder Zorro and his wife Elena fight foreigners (evil Frenchmen — oh the horrors) and religious zealots intent upon destroying America. Ample swordplay and impressive stunts keep the DVD moving along, but it's clear this is just an excuse to recreate the same winning formula of the first film. For the most part they succeed. While "Zorro" never strays from the Bisquick-style Hollywood recipe of a little action, a little romance and a little humor, it still manages to entertain. The fight scenes with bungling bad guys are prolific, but largely bloodless, making this DVD appropriate for children 9 and older. (PG: violence). 2 hours and 9 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2½ stars

Kids: 3 stars

Teens: 3 stars

Adults: 2½ stars

Seniors: 2½ stars

Should you rent it? Yes — entertaining romp for viewers ages 9 to 99.

BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS

A fascinating script with superb acting makes this Chinese import a superb DVD. Ye Liu stars as one of two intellectual teenage boys sent to be 'reeducated' in a remote Chinese mountain village by the communist government in 1971. A subtle culture clash between the literature-loving teens and the illiterate villagers serves as the backdrop for a charming film about falling in love and growing up. Children and teenagers will probably be bored by the subtle plot and lack of car chases, but anyone who remembers China's cultural revolution will be enthralled. Chinese with English subtitles. (Unrated, but fine for children 8 and up.) 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: 1 star

Teens: 1½ stars

Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 3½ stars

Should you rent it? Yes, a cinematic pearl — delicate, small and beautiful.

J.B. Alderman lives in Piedmont and can be reached via www.PhDVD.com.

Nurse Ratched, other roles shine

■ The actors in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" bring insight and humanity to even the smallest roles

By Susan Kuchinskas
CORRESPONDENT

Plays have lifecycles of their own. While the universals remain, social truths change. In an era when those who desperately need hospital treatment for mental illness are put out on the street, where they're mostly ignored by working stiffs desperate to hold onto their jobs within the military-industrial combine, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" has to stand on plot and character — and the production by the Contra Costa Civic Theatre does.

The play by Dale Wasserman, adapted from the book by Ken Kesey, is the story of a power struggle between Randle P. McMurphy, a hard-living con man who thinks time in a mental ward will be easier than jail time, and Nurse Ratched, whose therapeutic style seems designed to keep her charges sick and at her mercy. The free-wheeling McMurphy won't survive the encounter, but his sacrifice buys the freedom of Chief Bromden.

John Hale as Bromden is a powerful and imposing presence. In soliloquies that introduce each scene, he embodies the dread of this punitive world, setting up the conflict between men and the powers that want to squash them.

There's a kernel of old-fashioned misogyny at the center of this play. Kesey's premise is that manly men must wrest their birthright of drinking, fighting and whoring from ball-busting women who want them to remain mommy's little boys.

All of the male characters whose back stories we know have the same woman problem. Dale Harding is intimidated by his big-breasted wife; Bromden's father was belittled by his wife, causing him to sell off the tribal land and causing his son to grow up feeling small and powerless; and Billy is too terrified of disappointing his mother to take his rightful place among the guys cruising for chicks.

Nurse Ratched addresses her charges as "Boys," and it's up to



CLAIRE NAIL watches Mark Manske and John Hale chew up the scenery in the Contra Costa Civic Theater's production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

■ **WHEN:** Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Feb. 25, with a 2 p.m. matinee this Sunday

■ **WHERE:** Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito

■ **TICKETS:** \$15 adults, \$10 children under 16

■ **CONTACT:** Call 510-524-9132 or visit www.ccct.org

McMurphy, as their champion and proxy, to struggle unto death with her for their right to carouse. It's a tribute to the actors that

this production never seems to dip into an exploration of Kesey's mommy issues. All of the actors bring such humanity and insight into their roles that we see them as people, not archetypes. Special credit goes to Claire Nail, who, as Nurse Ratched, carries the play with Mark Manske as McMurphy.

Nail plays Nurse Ratched as tightly wound, controlled and controlling. It would have been all too easy for her to fall into caricature, because this character has entered the pop cultural lexicon. But Nail creates a unique woman with a tragically skewed approach to her work.

Manske's hard-grinning McMurphy is a thoughtless guy who just wants to have fun on his own

terms. His ass-grabbing routines don't seem as charming as they might have when this play was written, but Manske's performance is free of the nastiness that would have made his character hard to identify with.

Even the smallest roles are standouts. Philip Wharton as Aide Warren brings a world of buried rage and frustration to his harsh interactions with the patients. Bill Hatteroth and Phil Reed seem to undergo physical transformations in their dual roles as they switch from the sickest of the sick to hospital staffers.

Director Daren Carollo has assembled a wonderful smorgasbord of faces for this actors' ensemble play. Every actor has a strong, in-

teresting face and the to back it up. Carollo's realistic, believable from his cast, put across without me-

Colin Babcock's spot-on, and light- Dave Lam offsets ately flat lighting natory effects dur soliloquies. Lam als fluorescent lights en- ence; when they flir set a tone of foreb Tieck's eerie cont fully amp up the em-

Susan Kuchinskas is a dance writer based in She can be reached at susan@kuchinskas.com

Weston's photography takes viewers through the

By Robert Taylor
STAFF WRITER

The eye of a master pervades the Oakland Museum's new display of 58 photographs by Edward Weston, an exhibit that is stunning without ever attempting to be spectacular.

Weston has been described as one of the most committed artists in the history of photography. That is certainly clear in these small-scale black-and-white images, with subjects ranging from sand dunes to a chambered nautilus shell to a sliced cabbage.

The clarity is the result of Weston's vision as well as his technique, and most of the photographs are direct contact prints made from 8-by-10-inch negatives. Weston felt he would lose some of the precision of the image if he used an enlarger.

In the 1920s, Weston was one of the first California photographers to embrace modernism, moving away from the murky, romantic pictorial style. He inspired the Oakland-based Group f.64, which included Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham. For a time, according to art historian Beaumont Newhall, it was the most progressive group of photographers in the country.

The Oakland Museum's exhibit, drawn entirely from its extensive archives, covers nearly 30 years of Weston's career, beginning in the early 1920s. The installation by curator Drew Johnson is superb, giving the photographs room to breathe and visitors an opportunity to see them close-up.

The photographs are displayed along with many quotations from Weston's writings, exploring his intense, precise but no-nonsense style. Who else could turn a single cabbage leaf into an exquisite art object?

"Cabbage has renewed my interest," Weston says in the text posted with one photograph. "Marvelous hearts, like carved ivory, leaves with veins like flames, with forms curved like the most exquisite shell."

EXHIBIT

■ **WHAT:** "Edward Weston: Masterworks from the Collection"

■ **WHERE:** Oakland Museum of California, 10th and Oak streets, Oakland

■ **WHEN:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, through June 11

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$5-\$8 for full museum admission

■ **CONTACT:** 510-238-2200, www.museumca.org

Weston's most influential image — though it's not in this exhibit — may be his close-up of a pepper that suggests the gleaming, muscular form of an athlete. Displayed at the Oakland Museum instead is the almost abstract detail of a bunch of bananas, a radish with twisted multiple roots, and whale vertebrae looking like a weathered Victorian-era fence at Point Lobos near Carmel.

Weston's photographs of Point Lobos and the craggy, striated sand dunes are among his most famous. One of the most intriguing in this exhibit is the close-up of sandstone erosion, so intense and abstract that it might be the ruined walls of an ancient city.

The detail of a cypress tree, photographed in 1920, is augmented by a quotation reflecting Weston's amusement and his future direction:

"Poor abused cypress — photographed in all their picturesqueness by tourists ... etched, painted and generally vilified by every self-labeled 'artist,'" Weston says. "But no one has done them — to my knowledge — as I have, and will. Details, fragments of the trunks, the roots, dazzling records, technically superb, intensely visioned."

Weston was stricken with Parkinson's disease in 1946 and took his last photograph in 1948, at Point Lobos. During his final decade — he died in 1958 — he supervised the printing of his life's work by his sons Brett and



EDWARD WESTON'S interest in form and texture is evident in his large body of work, including "Shell" and "Cabbage Leaf."

Cole, photographers themselves. The series of nudes in the exhibit was printed by Cole Weston.

In his era, curator Johnson points out, Weston was more highly regarded than Ansel Adams, who is now the best known Western photographer who specialized in black-and-white landscapes.

"I sometimes forget that Weston is not a household name the way Adams is," Johnson said in an interview. "Adams was more interested specifically in beauty — and was actually criticized for that. Weston was interested in form, composition and texture. He was trying to get to the essence of what made a rock a rock."

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@



safety excels with the all-new Mercedes-Benz S-Class

BY TOM KEANE
MOTOR MATTERS

er of the future is available now. Mercedes-Benz S-Class, an attendant with amazing technological advancements in protection, safety, design and comfort. The 2007 S550 appears familiar with circular wheel wells to wrap into the headlamps. The wings are enclosed in the bumper. It is just one of its many safety features. At night, Infrared Night View Assist is the driver to see something ahead with low beams. This system is equipped with a switch on the dashboard and what's on the road is shown on the screen, just in front of the steering

Lamps are another area of safety. Emergency braking, the tail lamps display an extra bright glow so a driver behind in S-Class will notice.

front passenger seats are designed to protect the occupants in the event of a crash. Side bolsters wrap around the center of the seat while the seat belt pulls the occupant inward. Side bolsters also use the side bolsters to hold the rider as the car makes turns. When going through a left-hand curve, for example, the right bolster gently pulls the rider to the left side. These seats also hold me back during my 300-mile-per-hour test run. In addition, these exceptionally comfortable seats contain a fan to keep the body cool.

interior of the Mercedes S550 not only has a great eye-appeal, but has the interior of any car I've ever driven. The ride is smooth, solid, and quite quiet. Thanks to its 5.5-liter V8 all-aluminum engine that produces 382 horsepower and is linked to a seven-speed automatic transmission.

over, the main focus of this Mercedes-Benz is on safety in features a new version of PRE-SAFE should the system determine that there is not applying sufficient braking to avoid a collision, PRE-SAFE takes and applies more braking power. Or sensors detect the car is about to

LEAVE ON WHEELS

spin out of control, it closes the side windows and sunroof to allow the occupants the full protection of the side impact airbags. Best of all, the Brake Assist system enables the vehicle to stop in a shorter distance, which in many cases eliminates any collision.

But the braking advantage doesn't stop there. While on a crowded slow-moving highway, my tester would automatically slow down or stop according to the flow of traffic. When traffic started moving, I gently nudged the accelerator pedal and my car picked up speed to follow at a safe distance.

When parallel parking I simply pulled up to an open space, put the car in reverse, and on the screen on the dash panel I could clearly see the area I intended to back into outlined with blue.

MERCEDES-BENZ S550

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, rear-wheel drive, full-size sedan
Suggested Retail	\$86,175
Engine Type	32-valve DOHC V8 w/SFI
Horsepower	382 @ 6,000 rpm
Torque	391 @ 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Seven-speed automatic
Wheelbase	124 inches
Height	58 inches
Curb Weight	4,270 pounds
Fuel Capacity	24 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 16/24

yellow and red lines where I could safely back up. Audible tones assisted me. seat, the central balance still remained. Incidentally, the rear seats can be ad-

The Harman/Kardon sound system is the best I've heard. During my journey, music from Sirius Satellite was clear and centrally balanced when I was in the driver's seat. Yet when I rode in the back

eat, the central balance still remained. Incidentally, the rear seats can be adjusted and reclined to various comfort positions. And the trunk is enormous.

The screen on the dash panel is very informative and even contains the proper names of gas stations throughout the

THE INFRA-RED VISION, bottom inset, increases night visibility — extending the driver's "visibility" to nearly 500 feet.

INSIDE

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1957 Austin-Healey is a car that begs to be driven

BY VERN PARKER
MOTOR MATTERS

During the summer of 1957, when he was a teenager in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, John Soderling was captivated by an article in Road & Track magazine about the new six-cylinder Austin-Healey 100-Six.

He still remembers the story describing the car "as rugged and power-packed as it is sleek and beautiful," and seeing pictures in magazines of Austin-Healey sports cars.

"Detroit iron ruled in the small northern Idaho town where I grew up," he says. "On more than one occasion, I would go out into the garage and fantasize of my dream in the driver's seat of my dad's 1952 Chevrolet sedan."

A few years later, while at university, one of his fraternity brothers returned from Christmas vacation driving a used Austin-Healey. "I wanted to ride in that car badly," Soderling says. The two students managed a few double dates in the sports car with their good-natured dates squeezed into the two tiny seats in the compact compartment behind the front bucket seats.

In return for lining up the dates, the owner of the car gave Soderling several other opportunities in the driver's seat. Merely hearing the raucous, straight-six tailpipe symphonies and seeing the sexy Italianate lines with the chrome wire wheels, Soderling says, "cemented my love for Austin-Healeys." As a student he had neither the time nor the money to fulfill his wishes. Still, he could dream. "My imagination was filled with intoxicating visions of me in my dream roadster, top down, with endless open roads on which to

CLASSIC CLASSICS

enjoy it," he says.

After graduating in 1965, he settled in San Francisco and the realities of life set in. "During the next 30 years, a professional career, marriage, raising a family and numerous family four-door sedans and station wagons consumed all the finances, time and energy needed to dream about sports cars," Soderling says with no regrets.

Almost eight years ago a friend invited him to a weekend of vintage racing at the famed Monterey Historics at Laguna Seca Raceway. There were vintage Ferraris, Jaguars, Porsches and Maserati racecars on the track. "But first loves die hardest," Soderling says, "and odd as it seems, none of the exotics quite filled the vacuum left in my heart by the never-attained Austin-Healey 100-Six from the summer of 1957."

Upon returning home he began searching for Healeys for sale. "I joined the Austin-Healey club even though I didn't own a Healey, just so I could check out the Healeys for sale in their monthly magazine," he says.

Five months later he located a red 1957 Austin-Healey 100-Six MM in the northern California town of Eureka. It had been driven only 500 miles after a complete restoration by a retired machinist. In September 1998, Soderling drove 300 miles up the California coast to Eureka where he became a teenager once more as soon as he saw the bright red Austin-Healey with its chrome polished and black tonneau cover gleaming.

With the title in his hip pocket,



JOHN SODERLING SAYS, regarding his Austin-Healey 100-Six MM, he is at least the fourth owner of the car, which left the factory on Dec. 10, 1957, and sold for about \$3,150 new.

heart throbbing and 300 miles of open road home to San Francisco, Soderling headed south on the Pacific Coast Highway. "The Austin-Healey's terrific racecar handling," Soderling explains, "is partially a result of its low center of gravity created by the placement of the rear axle above the frame. The resulting ground clear-

ance is only 5.5 inches."

Soderling says that he is at least the fourth owner of the car, which left the factory on Dec. 10, 1957. He says it has been a northern California car all its life and had been set up for circle track racing. The 2,400-pound, aluminum paneled, honest roadster (no roll-up windows) is powered by a 2.7-liter, 120-horsepower, inline six-

cylinder engine fed by a pair of S.U. carburetors. When new it sold for about \$3,150.

The fluid capacities are seven quarts of oil, 12 quarts of coolant and 14 gallons of gasoline. Soderling reports mileage of about 18 city and 22 highway. Additionally, this 49-year-old Austin-Healey can run with the big dogs on the freeway. "Above all,"

Soderling says, "she is a star that begs to be driven and really have nowhere to go."

For your car to become part of the Classic Classics, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) and brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbotts Vienna, VA 22181. Only good quality will be con-

All four tires must be replaced on all-wheel drive vehicle

BY JUNIOR DAMATO
MOTOR MATTERS

Dear Doctor: I purchased a 2003 Toyota RAV4 4x4 in September. My question is about the tires. One front tire barely passed the state inspection. The dealer agreed to replace the front tires at no charge. They said because the SUV is all-wheel drive, I have to replace all four tires. I have to pay for the two rear tires. — John

Dear John: The dealer is correct. On any all-wheel drive vehicle, all four tires should have the same amount of wear. The all-wheel drive system requires that all the tires spin

AUTO DOCTOR

at the same speed. A tire with wear will actually turn faster than a taller non-worn tire. I will not replace one or two tires on all-wheel drive vehicles. My question to you is simple. Did you have a used-car evaluation performed before you purchased the vehicle? The dealer should replace all four tires and check the front end alignment for you.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Ford Escort. The "check engine" light came on. I thought it was

about the oxygen sensor, so I replaced it. The "check engine" light still comes on. What can be the problem? — Angel

Dear Angel: Before answering your "check engine" light question, we need to know what the trouble code is. A scan tool is required if you are a do-it-yourselfer. If not, take the car to a shop so they can scan the computer. A lot of technicians and do-it-yourselfers make the mistake of replacing whatever part is in the trouble code error circuit.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 Oldsmobile Aurora. I had the air con-

ditioner compressor evaporator replaced this past summer. The heat flows out of the driver's side fine, but the passenger side blows out cold. The technician says it could be an electronic problem and be expensive to fix. — Paul

Dear Paul: The technician is correct. A Tech II scan tool should have the capability of checking for a trouble code in the HVAC system. Electronic controlled heat and a/c systems require the use of a scan tool to check trouble fault codes. The scan tool has the capability to operate the system through its entire range of hot and cold. The more

complicated the system, the fewer independent shops that will be able to fix them. This repair may have to go through your GM dealer.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Ford F-150 4x4 with only 52,000 miles. The four-wheel drive system would not engage, so I took it to the dealer. I was told they had to replace the fuse panel and 4x4 module. They said both got wet from a leaking windshield. They also said this was not the first truck they saw with a windshield leak. The truck has low miles and I never saw any water leaks in the truck. What do you think? — Billy

Dear Billy: I have seen leaks from windshields and have replaced a few. I had one late model Ford that had one late model Ford come in that had some missing. The truck should be tested. Water will destroy connections and modules.

Dear Doctor: I own a Dodge Grand Caravan with 100,000 miles. Five years ago I had the mission replaced at a factory Chrysler transmission shop months ago the transmission

See DOCTOR, Page 2

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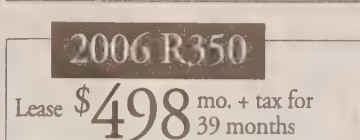
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MSRP 22,990
Sale Price \$20,499
Factory Rebate \$500
Conquest \$1,000

NET COST \$18,999

2005 RENDEVOUS

\$8,121 OFF MSRP

MSRP 28,120
Sale Price \$19,999

NET COST \$14,999

2005 MONTANA SV6

\$7,621 OFF MSRP

MSRP 29,620
Sale Price \$26,499
Factory Rebate \$4,500

NET COST \$21,999

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SELL YOUR CAR, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE THROUGH THE CLASSIFIEDS IN HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Europeans rank safety first in buying decisions

BY CHERYL JENSEN
MOTOR MATTERS

DOWN THE ROAD

less than expected, said Adriaan Euro NCAP's Secretary General. "The lack of variation in general, the survey overall was somewhat surprising. We expected greater differences between the sexes and between the different age states and the old."

When it came to age differences, consumer interest in safety was highest among the elderly. It was 82 percent for those over 75 years old, compared with 70 percent for those between the ages of 65 and 74, and 64 percent for all those 65 and older.

When it came to income, only 89 percent of those with incomes of \$100,000 or more said that income was originally more important to them than to those with incomes of \$10,000 or less (89 percent and 88 percent).

Those with higher incomes placed greater importance on the side-impact door and front seat passenger air bag compared to those with lower incomes (49 percent and 88 percent, respectively).

Of note was the difference in income groups in relation to babies and child passengers — of high earners were influenced by safety of babies and child compared to only 56 percent of lower incomes.

Euro NCAP, which was established in 1997 and operates independently of the automotive industry, is sponsored by European governments, motor groups and motoring clubs. It comes from the European Commission's

These gender differences are small and

The survey showed overall that "Safety" was the most important factor influencing European consumer choice, with 79 percent saying it was "very important" and 15 percent saying it was "fairly important."

Germany and Great Britain were the only countries in which consumers placed reliability just ahead of safety.

After safety and reliability, the next most important considerations were a vehicle's performance and road handling and its operating costs. In all countries, these came in

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ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,000,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$715,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$697,844

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$379,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$514,500

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$379,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$514,500

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$385,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$3,000,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$632,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$815,167

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$385,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$3,000,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$632,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$815,167

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$470,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$647,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$558,500

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$470,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$647,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$558,500

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$450.000

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$450.000

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$288,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$499,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$385,750

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$288,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$499,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$385,750

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$842,500

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$842,500

TOTAL SALES: 71
LOWEST PRICE: \$253,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,275,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$480,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$566,401

TOTAL SALES: 71
LOWEST PRICE: \$253,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,275,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$480,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$566,401

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$4,861,000

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$4,861,000

TOTAL SALES: 32
LOWEST PRICE: \$316,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$923,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$510,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$552,563

TOTAL SALES: 32
LOWEST PRICE: \$316,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$923,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$510,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$552,563

TOTAL SALES: 21
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$540,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$545,881

TOTAL SALES: 21
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$540,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$545,881

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$575,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$587,500

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$575,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$587,500

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⁶ 50 Bellevue - \$4,861,000

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Doctor

PAGE D2

The limp mode. The dealer replaced the computer, solenoid pack and both speed sensors. After driving 50 to 100 miles it went into the limp mode. The technician is at a loss. —

Dear Don: The technician needs to check the computer for trouble codes, followed by checking the gauge at all terminals. We had a Chrysler transmission problem this past summer. The transmission shop replaced the trans-

mission and computer. We had the van for three days and found a loss of power from the fuse/relay box under the hood. Working with the help of Identifix, we were able to solve the problem. It takes time to troubleshoot electronic problems.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Buick Park Avenue. When I replaced the battery, the gas gauge needle locked behind the empty symbol. To reset the gas gauge, the dash cluster panel has to be removed to gently pull the needle over the gauge needle stop. What causes this problem? — Ted

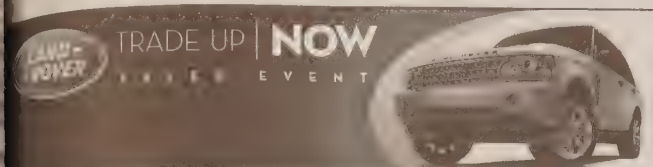
Dear Ted: The problem is either a faulty gas gauge or needle, or the needle stop needs to be slightly bent

so that the needle will rest on the stop when necessary.

Dear Doctor: Is there a difference between inexpensive wiper blades and more expensive name brand wiper blades? — Chris

Dear Chris: Inexpensive name wiper blades often chatter and will not clean the windshield properly. The main difference I find with wiper blades is the frame makeup and especially the quality and flexibility of the actual rubber material. I use Bosch exposed frame regular blades and Anco enclosed in rubber winter blades. Both of these brands work for us.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.



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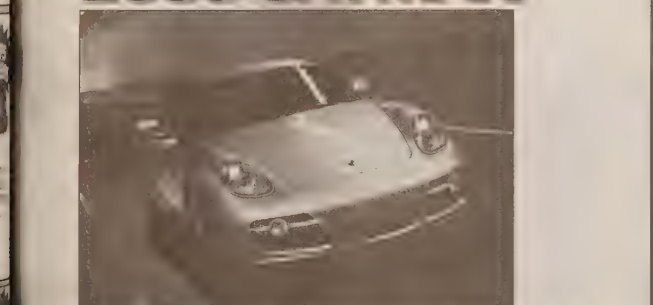
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Corrosion Warranty	84 months/unlimited miles	60 months/unlimited miles	60 months/unlimited miles
NHTSA Safety Ratings			
Frontal Impact (Passenger)	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Side Impact (Front Seat)	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Side Impact (Rear Seat)	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆
J.D. Power Ratings			
Vehicle	2006 Hyundai Sonata	2006 Honda Accord	2006 Toyota Camry
Overall Quality	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Mechanical Quality	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Body & Interior Quality	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●

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With Rolls-Royce Phantom, expect a smooth, quiet ride from a 'commissioned piece of art'

BY ANN M. JOB
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Imagine sending your favorite nail polish to a car company and asking that your new car be painted the same color.

It's happened at least twice at Rolls-Royce Motor Cars over the past two years, and yes, the well-heeled and well-groomed women buyers each got their wish. As did the man who sent in a tree cut from his own forest and asked that the carmaker use the wood to trim the dashboard and other interior pieces on his new luxury car.

This is the rarefied world of Rolls-Royce, where it can take a year or so for a buyer to get his or her new luxury sedan, depending on the special — some might say unusual — custom touches.

But be assured, when the car arrives, it has the craftsmanship — not to mention the stately presence — that delights the world's wealthiest car owners.

Indeed, with just one model offered — the V12-powered Phantom

sedan, which has a starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including delivery charge, of \$329,750 — Rolls-Royce set a 15-year record last year with 796 sales worldwide.

It's an understatement to say that the carmaker builds and sells luxury vehicles.

With a 100-year heritage of catering to the rich and powerful around the globe, Rolls-Royce produces sizable, powerful and luxuriously appointed cars that make regular folk stare and stare.

A Rolls-Royce "is almost like a piece of art that's commissioned," spokesman Graham Biggs said.

Testing the 2006 Phantom was unlike any other test drive.

Doors on this more than 19-foot-long car open wide for easy access, and passengers sit up higher than they do in other cars, though not as high as in tall sport utility vehicles.

Inside the Phantom, there's cashmere in the car's ceiling material, which makes it feel like the

upholstery on a living room chair. Touch and tap on the shiny silver trim parts — for example, control knobs for the ventilation system — and you feel solid metal. It's chrome-plated. No cheap plastic here.

Likewise, wood trim inside the car is all real wood, and a typical Phantom uses 16 to 18 animal hides for the leather seats and other interior trim. Glass in the doors is thicker than in any non-armored production car and contributes to an amazingly quiet interior.

The rear seat in the tester looked like a couch, with the seat-back curving around to the door openings in a stylish fashion.

But the experience really begins when the Phantom's accelerator pedal is touched. There's a strong, yet silky smooth surge of power from a 453-horsepower, 6.75-liter, double overhead cam V12.

This is a BMW engine that can produce a whopping 531 foot-pounds of torque at just 3,500 rpm, and it does exceptionally well

in propelling this 5,500-pound car. A driver scarcely realizes how fast he or she is going because the power comes on so seductively and the interior remains isolated and quiet.

Indeed, in a test — on a former airplane runway, not a public road — the stable and heavy Phantom test car got up over 100 miles an hour but felt like it was going only about 60 mph.

The transmission is a six-speed automatic, and the estimated 0-to-60-mile-per-hour run takes a respectable 5.7 seconds, according to company statistics.

Fuel economy is akin to that of some big SUVs at 12/19 mpg for city and highway, respectively.

The Phantom's steering wheel is large and spindly, which seems a bit old-fashioned.

But taking this stately sedan through a back-and-forth slalom showed impressive suspension work. While weight shifted noticeably in the Phantom, the car held its line and behaved in a controlled manner.

Yet, on regular roads, passengers aren't jostled or bothered, because the suspension seems to keep them floating above the road imperfections.

I just wished that the steering effort wasn't so light.

Perhaps the most memorable feature, though, is the stereo. Premium speakers are carefully arranged and separate different tones and sounds, while subwoofers under the front passenger floor are so powerful they can make the floor vibrate.

Though Rolls-Royces continue to be built, as they have since the beginning, in England, the company now is a BMW operation. BMW bought the rights to the Rolls name after a bidding battle with Volkswagen in the late 1990s.

Oddly, though, some things don't seem to fit with the image of Rolls-Royce as the quintessential luxury car. For example, rear parking sensors have less-than-attractive and visible sensor circles on

the car's bumpers.

The United States is the largest Rolls-Royce market, accounts for about 45 percent of sales, according to company officials.

The top-selling U.S. model is the Phantom.

Company officials can give specifics about buyers, but the need for buyer privacy is known that some 45 percent of Rolls-Royce owners are people of industry. The entertainment and sports industries or members of government have, on average, cars at home.

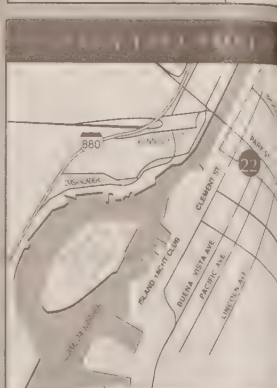
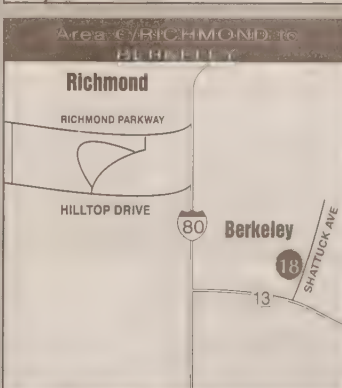
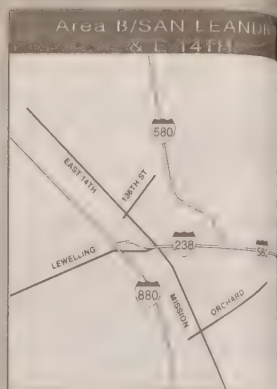
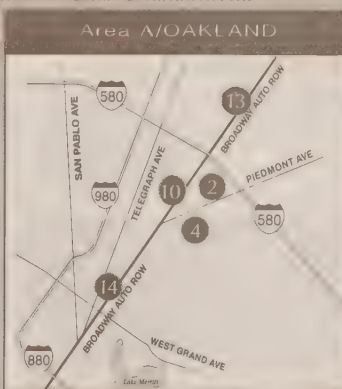
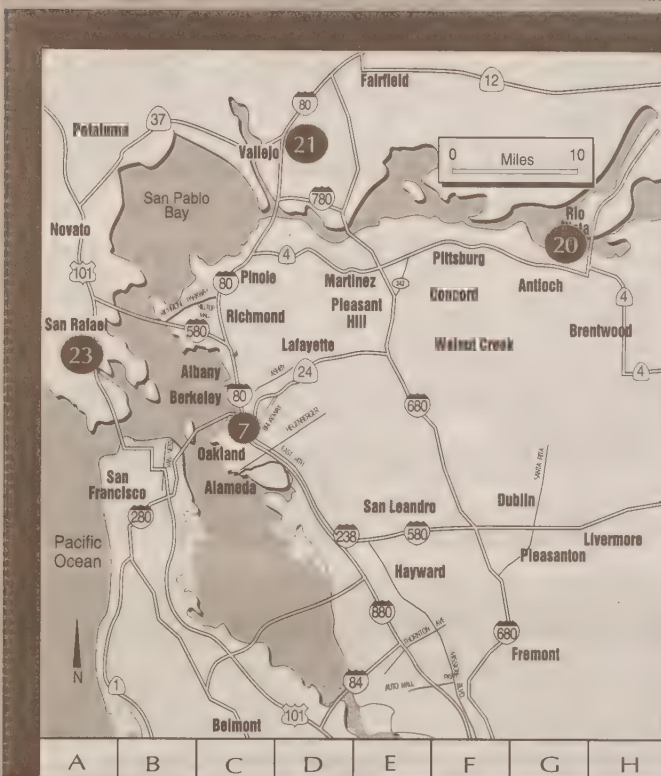
By late this year, BMW will expand its line to include an extended-wheelbase Phantom 10 additional inches of room. A Rolls-Royce Phantom is due in 2007.

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Premium or regular: Does it even matter?

MS
two days. It seems nearly
preoccupied with the
at the pump. But while
people are chiefly con-
with the price per gallon,
understanding of the oc-
might help both your
your wallet.
mobile owners can learn
to use for their car
opening the glove com-
and reading their vehicle's
manual. These almost al-
the type of gas your
be it a higher-octane gas
(83 or 94 octane), which is
called "premium," or a
lower-octane gas (87), commonly re-
ferred to as "regular." Along with
octane gas (89), these are
of choices most gas stations
more expensive and regular
the cheapest option available,

many consumers are likely unaware
of the effect octane can have on their
car's engine and why certain engines
function perfectly with a lower oc-
tane while others are best suited to
a higher octane.
Octane refers to the antiknock
value of a particular gasoline.
Knocking occurs in an engine
when a fuel ignites too quickly and
a pinging sound results. To better
understand knocking, under-
standing just how an engine works
can help. As your engine's pistons
push up, gasoline and air are
drawn into the cylinders and com-
pressed. At the right time, your en-
gine's spark plugs then ignite the
compressed fuel-air mixture, and
this mixture then burns, not ex-
plodes. When this fuel-air mixture
is being compressed, however, it
can get too hot and ignite pre-
maturely on its own, a condition
called preignition, which causes

knocking. This is bad for your car,
as engine damage can be one side
effect of preignition. Octane, then,
is a gasoline's resistance to
knocking and preignition.
That said, it could be inferred
that the higher the octane, the bet-
ter that gasoline is for your car, as
higher octane will mean a greater
resistance to preignition and,
therefore, a healthier engine. This
is not the case. Cars that are clas-
sified as turbocharged or high-
powered often have their gasoline-
and-air mixture put under intense
heat during compression, placing
them in greater need of a higher-
octane gas that can lessen the
likelihood of preignition.
However, the average car en-
gine is not turbocharged, and
most, in fact, are built specifically
for a lower-octane gasoline. This
means their gasoline-and-air mix-
ture are not compressed under in-

tense heat, and preignition is not
a concern. Therefore, putting pre-
mium gasoline in these cars pays
no dividend and simply takes
more money out of your pocket.
Putting premium gas in an en-
gine where it doesn't belong can
also lead to another problem that
might prove even more costly than
a few extra dollars each time you fill
up. This has to do with the concept
of volatility, or the ability of a liquid
to mix or atomize into the air. As
mentioned earlier, gasoline must first
mix and compress with the air in-
side an engine before it can burn.
However, the higher the octane, the
lower the volatility, making it more
difficult for the gas to compress with
the air. This in turn can lead to prob-
lems starting your engine, as a car
filled with gasoline of too high an oc-
tane will have trouble mixing with air.
Typically, this problem is most preva-
lent as the seasons change, since

gasoline has a more difficult time
mixing into cold air than warm air.
While refineries adjust the volatility
of fuels from summer to winter, an
abrupt cold spell can cause prob-
lems for your car, as many times the
fuel blend will still be a summer
blend with a lower volatility.
One common practice that
might be irrelevant now is switch-
ing to a higher octane once your
car is older. In the past, cars had
carburetors that needed to be ad-
justed on a regular basis so the air-
fuel mixture would remain accurate.
Older vehicles, too, would experi-
ence more difficulty keeping the
fuel-air mixture accurate. If no ad-
justments were made, carbon de-
posits would result as a side effect
of too much fuel and too little air.
These carbon deposits would then
increase knocking, making a
higher-octane gas necessary to
keep the older car running as
smoothly as possible. Today, how-
ever, most cars have fuel injection
with computers that control the mix-
ture of air and fuel, therefore greatly
diminishing the chances of carbon

deposits forming and making
higher-octane fuels unnecessary.
If you're still unsure as to the
most suitable octane to use for
your automobile, remember to
check the manual or visit your ve-
hicle maker's Web site.
**Gas octanes and what to
use**
■ **87-octane:** The least ex-
pensive of the fuels at the pump, 87-
octane (or "regular") is generally
recommended for most vehicles.
Most manufacturers build their cars
with engines capable of running
smoothly on low-octane fuel. Not
to be used with cars that have tur-
bocharged engines.
■ **89-octane:** The middle grade,
89-octane is acceptable for use in
any car that is not turbocharged.
Offers slightly more resistance to
preignition, but most engines will
get the same results with the less
expensive 87-octane.
■ **93- or 94-octane:** These are
really only useful for cars with tur-
bocharged engines that are more
susceptible to preignition.

Hybrids and batteries, a reach toward the future

WARREN BROWN
WASHINGTON POST
Here's an en-
from the Department of
Consequences:
and trucks have become
computers and other
gizmos. That's good for
efficiency, emissions
and overall vehicle per-
formance and enjoyment.
Electronic devices become
quickly. Today's popular
communications gadget
technology junkie.
ever tried donating a fun-
desktop computer to a
organization? Many
there won't take it.
today's electronics
are in danger of be-
tomorrow's forgettable
case of rapid advances
technology. That means cars

could lose value in the manner of
yesterday's iPod, laptop or video
game. Consider, for example, the
matter of batteries, which are be-
coming increasingly important in
the continued development of hy-
brid gas-electric cars and trucks.
An estimated 88,000 hybrid ve-
hicles, most of them from Toyota
Motor Corp. and Honda Motor
Co., were sold in the United States
last year. Those models accounted
for barely half of 1 percent of the
17.2 million new cars and trucks
sold in the United States in 2004,
according to J.D. Power and As-
sociates, an international market-
research firm in Westlake Vil-
lage, Calif.
But hybrids are gaining popu-
larity in the automotive world,
thanks to higher petroleum prices
and superior marketing hype. Ger-
man and U.S. automotive manu-

facturers, companies that once es-
chewed hybrids in pursuit of hy-
drogen fuel-cell vehicles, which they
still regard as the ultimate so-
lution to car-caused environmen-
tal problems, are planning to put
more hybrid models in their ve-
hicle lineups.
J.D. Power analysts think that
by 2012, gas-electric hybrids will
account for 3.5 percent of all new
cars and trucks sold in the United
States. Other analysts, more bull-
ish in their assessment of poten-
tial public acceptance of hybrids,
think those models could account
for 15 percent of all new U.S. ve-
hicle sales by 2015.
Better batteries will accelerate hy-
brid sales, analysts predict. That's
the good news for hybrid support-
ers. The bad news is that better bat-
teries can and probably will under-
mine the resale value of vehicles with

older batteries, such as the nickel-
metal-hydrate packs used in most of
today's hybrid vehicles.
Nickel-metal-hydrate batteries
do relatively well in their current ve-
hicle application, which primarily is
an assistive mode. The batteries
and electric motors take over the
driving chores of hybrids in stop-
and-go urban traffic. Power re-
sponsibilities shift to the hybrid's
gasoline engine on the highway.
But automakers nowadays are
looking at the possibility of making
the batteries and electric motors
carry more of the power responsi-
bilities on the highway. Doing so
would conserve more fossil fuels
and slash more tailpipe emissions.
In addition to extra power, the
car companies also want smaller,
lighter batteries. To get those
things, they are looking at lithium-
ion batteries as potential succes-

sors to today's nickel-metal-hy-
dride packs.
In response to what it sees as
a developing demand for "ad-
vanced power-storage systems,"
Johnson Controls Inc., one of the
world's biggest automotive sup-
pliers, last September established
a lithium-ion battery research cen-
ter near its headquarters in Mil-
waukee. In doing so, Johnson
Controls served notice that it was
taking on Japanese companies,
such as Panasonic EV Energy Co.
and Sanyo Electric Co., in pursuit
of the car battery of the future.
All of the companies involved in
lithium-ion research "are still a
way off" from developing a
durable, affordable lithium-ion car
battery, one that actually can be
designed as an integral part of a
hybrid-vehicle drive system, rather
than be installed as a bolted-on

device, said Greg Sherrill, group
vice president for the Automotive
Group of Johnson Controls.
"We still have certain issues,
such as improving the durability
of lithium-ion batteries," which
tend to be more vulnerable to
damage than the nickel-metal-hy-
dride type in the heat and vibra-
tion generated in the operating en-
vironments of cars and trucks,
Sherrill said.
But, "We believe that lithium-
ion batteries will be the wave of
the future; and we're excited to be
a leading organization in helping
to drive this battery technology for-
ward," he said.
Auto-industry analysts think
companies involved in lithium-ion
battery research are likely to come
up with a marketable, break-
through battery in the near future
— a development that would
move the concept of gas-electric
cars forward while effectively con-
signing the current generation of
those models to the status of a
played-out laptop.

Detroit's reality car show

CHERYL JENSEN
DETROIT TIMES NEWS SERVICE
While luxury au-
 Introduced titillating
performance cars recently at
American International
It was mostly a reality
real people who need
education.
Contrast with re-
shows, the new cars
more affordable and
efficient. There was less
on trucks, though there
abundance of the car-
port utility vehicles called
domestic automakers,
Jeep and Dodge had a
production cars; Ford
crossovers and a four-
cylinder Mustang; and
Jeep brought what might
be its first true hybrid.
Nissan and Toyota put
on the Big Three with
expensive, more fuel-
Toyota also introduced
the Camry.
some of the new or re-
models being introduced

this year, mostly as 2007 models:
■ **Audi S6:** The new, all-wheel-
drive performance sedan has a 5.2-
liter 10-cylinder engine rated at 420
horsepower. Prices will start in the
mid-\$70,000 range when the car
goes on sale in the fall.
■ **BMW Z4 and M Roadster:**
The updated Z4 — with two ver-
sions of a 3-liter 6-cylinder engine,
rated at 215 or 255 horsepower —
is expected in dealerships this
spring. Later, there will be a high-
performance \$52,000 M version with
a 333-horsepower engine.
■ **Cadillac Escalade ESV and
EXT:** Cadillac has revamped its Es-
calade line, including the long ESV
and EXT pickup models. All get a
new 6.2-liter aluminum V8 and 6-
speed automatic.
■ **Chrysler Aspen:** The first SUV
with a Chrysler nameplate, the As-
pen is essentially a restyled Dodge
Durango that seats up to eight peo-
ple. The optional 5.7-liter hemi V8
employs cylinder deactivation that
lets it alternate between eight and
four cylinders to save fuel. Sales will
start this fall.
■ **Dodge Caliber:** The Caliber,

a small hatchback wagon, replaces
the Neon sedan in the first quarter.
Available with front- or all-wheel
drive, it is a mechanical sibling of the
Jeep Compass. Prices start
around \$14,000.
■ **Ford Shelby GT500:** Ford
calls this the most powerful Mus-
tang ever: it has a 475-horsepower,
5.4-liter supercharged V8. When the
GT500 shows up in dealerships in
the summer, it will come in both
coupe and convertible models. Ford
says prices will start around
\$40,000.
■ **Ford Edge and Lincoln MKX:**
These siblings are crossover sport
wagons that should have carlike ride
and handling, since both are based
on underpinnings from the Mazda
6. Sales begin late this year.
■ **Honda Fit:** A subcompact
four-door hatchback, the Fit will be
the smallest car in Honda's line, but
it will be big on standard equipment.
With a likely price below \$14,000,
standard equipment includes an-
tilock brakes; side curtain airbags;
air conditioning; and power win-
dows, mirrors and locks. The 1.5-
liter 4-cylinder engine delivers es-
timated fuel economy of 33 mpg in
the city and 38 on the highway. The
Fit goes on sale in April.
■ **Hyundai Santa Fe:** The sec-

ond generation of this utility wagon,
seven inches longer with seven-pass-
enger seating, arrives this summer.
■ **Jaguar XK Convertible:** This
redesigned 2-plus-2 convertible
goes on sale in the spring at
\$81,500. The aluminum body car-
ries a 300-horsepower, 4.2-liter V8
engine.
■ **Jeep Wrangler:** The re-
designed Wrangler looks familiar,
though it is 5 inches longer. Jeep
says it provides more off-road ca-
pability and more on-road refine-
ment. It goes on sale this fall.
■ **Jeep Compass:** A close re-
lative of the Dodge Caliber, the Com-
pass takes Jeep in a new direction.
Never intended for true off-roading,
it is the first Jeep with front-wheel
drive (all-wheel drive is available)
and will offer a continuously vari-
able transmission. It goes on sale
in the second half of the year.
■ **Kia Optima:** This redesigned
midsize sedan goes on sale in the
spring with a wider track and longer
wheelbase. It will have six standard
air bags (including air curtains) and
active front head restraints.
■ **Lexus LS460 and LS460L:**
Lexus' new flagship sedan will have
the world's first eight-speed auto-
matic transmission and a much
more powerful, 380-horsepower V8.

A new stretched version takes aim
at the largest German luxury
sedans. Lexus will offer a feature
that lets the LS parallel-park itself
without the driver touching the steer-
ing wheel. Sales start in the fall.
■ **Mazda CX-7:** Mazda's sleek
crossover shares its foundation with
the Mazda3 and Mazda5. The en-
try-level model will start at \$23,700
and a fancy version at \$28,000. The
CX-7 will compete with a new Acura
crossover, the RDX, which will be
introduced as a production model
at the New York auto show in April.
■ **Mercedes-Benz GL-Class:**
The GL puts Mercedes squarely in the
full-size sport utility segment. It
is about a foot longer than the M-
Class, with which it shares many
parts, and offers three rows of seats.
With a 4.6-liter V8 engine and seven-
speed automatic transmission, it can
tow 7,500 pounds. It goes on sale
in June.
■ **Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder:**
A convertible version of the Eclipse
coupe goes on sale in April at a
price expected to start below
\$26,000. Four-cylinder and V6 en-
gines will be offered.
■ **Nissan Sentra:** The sixth-gen-
eration Sentra is not only 6 inches
longer, it is no longer Nissan's most
basic car — that role will be filled

by the new Versa. The Sentra goes
on sale this fall for \$15,000 and up.
■ **Nissan Versa:** This small four-
door hatchback goes on sale early
in the summer at about \$12,000,
to be followed by a sedan later in the
year. The 1.8-liter 4-cylinder engine
is expected to have about 120
horsepower, and there is a choice
of three transmissions: six-speed
manual, four-speed automatic or
continuously variable.
■ **Saturn Vue Green Line Hybrid:**
GM is introducing its less com-
plex, more affordable hybrid system
in the Vue, which will start at less
than \$23,000. The Green Line's 4-
cylinder gasoline engine is boosted
by an electric motor and is expected
to be rated at 27 mpg in town and
32 mpg on the highway. Sales start
this summer.
■ **Toyota Camry:** America's
best-selling car in seven of the last
eight years has been redesigned
to be more refined. Engines are a
2.4-liter 4-cylinder or a 3.5-liter V6.
Sales start in March, with a hybrid
version to arrive later. The hybrid
has a 4-cylinder gasoline engine
that develops 147 horsepower and
can receive a boost of up to 45
horsepower from an electric motor.
Its mileage is estimated at 43 mpg
in the city and 37 on the highway.

Cars that pay attention when the driver doesn't

BAUKUS MELLO
DETROIT TIMES NEWS SERVICE
After years of con-
their efforts on reducing
caused by collisions, auto
are increasingly turning
to what happens in the
before an impact.
control systems have
ever more capable of
before they end in
crashes can now be pro-
to recognize panic stops
a maximum force for hes-
cues. BMW's "active steer-
computer a driver's over-
moves at the steering
an emergency maneuver,
offers a system that
the car is drifting to
adjacent lane — and a
brake-bender.
Luxury cars already have
put the car into pro-
mode when sensors indi-
cations is imminent —
blow seat belts, closing
and windows. Au-
proposing computers
to aggressively to act
how closely the driver is
to the road.
demonstration drive on a
test course here, I tried
latest safety technol-
that apply on their own
seems likely.
targeted the 2006 Acura
a target — a foam racket
by a long bracket
a moving car — my
net was closing in too
of warnings — part
calls a collision miti-

gation braking system — activated,
first alerting me to the danger with a
warning tone and a flashing light on
the dashboard, then gently tugging
the driver's seat belt. Finally, the sys-
tem applied the brakes forcefully to
slow the car. It all happened with no
action required by me to prevent a
(simulated) rear collision.
Rear-end collisions are a logical
starting point for any effort at re-
ducing accidents: of the 6.2 million
crashes reported in the United States
during 2004, more than 20
percent were rear impacts, ac-
cording to the National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration.
Acura's system, like others that
act pre-emptively, takes advantage
of onboard computers already in
the car to control features like an-
tilock brakes and pretensioners that
pull seat belts taut in a collision.
The common denominator of all
the pre-emptive systems is an ad-
vanced feature called adaptive
cruise control. Unlike conventional
speed controls, which are designed
simply to hold a steady speed, ad-
aptive controls can also maintain
a set distance to cars ahead. The
car speeds up or slows down in re-
sponse to measurements from a
laser or radar unit.
Taking advantage of the adap-
tive cruise control technology and
hardware, the pre-emptive safety
systems use existing sensors to
monitor cars or even stationary
objects in the vehicle's path, con-
tinuously evaluating the possi-
bility of a collision.
Mercedes-Benz was the first
automaker to feature a pre-emp-

tive safety system in the United
States. Its S-Class luxury sedans
were equipped for 2003 with a
system it called Pre-Safe, which
took action milliseconds before a
crash to reel in any slack in the
seat belts, close the sunroof and
adjust the seat to place the occu-
pant in the safest position.
The next generation of the Mer-
cedes system adds functions: it
closes the side windows and gives
the driver full braking power the mo-
ment the brakes are applied, in-
creasing the pressure if they are not
applied with enough force to prevent
a collision. It will be standard equip-
ment in the 2007 S-Class, which
goes on sale next month.
The Lexus Pre-Collision System
operates much the same way.
When it senses an imminent col-
lision, it retracts the seat belts and
primes the brake system so that full
braking power will be available im-
mediately. The system is an option
on the Lexus LS and GS models.
Infiniti also offers two pre-emp-
tive safety features on some of its
vehicles. Pre-Crash seat belts,
which retract prior to a collision, are
standard on M and Q-series
sedans. Preview Braking, which
uses cruise control sensors to iden-
tify potential crash situations,
primes the brakes to assure that
maximum stopping power is im-
mediately available. It is optional
on the M, Q and FX models.
Acura's system is the only one
that will automatically apply the
brakes without driver intervention.
An option on the 2006 RL, the sys-
tem uses a radar unit in the grille

to continuously monitor the rate at
which the car is closing in on a ve-
hicle ahead, up to 300 feet away.
When sensors determine that a col-
lision is likely, the electronics begin
a three-stage procedure.
First, a warning lamp that says
"brake" flashes on the dashboard,
directly below the speedometer,
and a warning tone rings through
the audio system. If the distance
between the two vehicles does not
increase, the system begins a sec-
ond stage of actions, applying the
brakes lightly while an electric pre-
tensioner takes the slack out of the
driver's seat belt with a gentle warn-
ing tug. If this is still not enough to
prevent the crash, the system's
third stage will forcefully retract both
front seat belts and apply stronger
braking to reduce the car's speed.
While it will not bring the ve-
hicle to a complete stop on its own,
the system will apply about 75 per-
cent of the car's braking capacity.
Acura has asked insurance com-
panies to consider offering dis-
counts to owners of RL's with the
system, said William Walton, a
product planner at Acura.
While pre-emptive safety sys-
tems are now offered on only a few
vehicles, they are expected to be-
come more available. Mike Thoeny,
an engineer at Delphi, the auto-
motive supplier, said the company
was working with several au-
tomakers to develop new applica-
tions, including systems that use
a camera to differentiate moving ob-
jects from stationary ones.
By the end of the decade,
Thoeny said, pre-emptive safety sys-

Cars are talking; safety is the topic

JEREMY W. PETERS
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE
MILFORD, Mich. — On a bus-
tury afternoon here at General
Motors' proving grounds north-
west of Detroit, engineers
whipped around the track in a
Chevrolet Suburban and a pair of
Cadillac CTS sedans, seemingly
intent on causing a collision.
For a moment, that seemed to
be exactly what would happen.
The big Suburban, blocking the
view of a Cadillac at the head of
the pack, suddenly swerved out of
its lane to reveal the lead car
stopped in the middle of the track.
But before the second Cadillac
slammed into the rear of the
stopped car, the driver was alerted
to the danger by a series of vibra-
tions through the seat. At the same
moment, the brakes automatically
clamped down to slow the car.
The technology that took
control to prevent a crash, which
GM calls a "sixth sense" system,
is an example of the next-gen-
eration collision-avoidance sys-
tems that automakers are in-
creasingly developing.
"The cars talk digitally," said
Larry Burns, vice president for re-

search and development at GM.
"They're putting out a signal say-
ing, 'Hey, I'm a car and I'm here.'"
The system, which GM calls
V2V, for vehicle-to-vehicle com-
munication, uses a transponder
connected to the car's OnStar
communications system. The
transponder, or radio communi-
cator, reports the car's position,
speed, acceleration and braking
action to other similarly equipped
vehicles, up to a quarter-mile away.
In addition to helping prevent
rear-end collisions, V2V technol-
ogy may also help reduce acci-
dents that occur when one car
enters another's blind spot.
There is a catch: initially, only
GM vehicles equipped with OnStar
and the transponder will be able
to share information. But GM says
the transponder, which costs about
\$50, could be adapted to a global
positioning system in any vehicle.
The technology is 5 to 10
years away for GM vehicles,
Burns said. As for when all cars
might be able to sense one an-
other, he said: "With 230 million
cars and trucks in the United
States today, it might take a
while."

tems will also monitor the driver and
tailor responses based on alertness,
issuing a warning sooner if the driv-
er's eyes are not on the road. Lexus
showed just such a concept at the

Tokyo auto show in October.
"We have this technologically
ready today," Thoeny said. "It's
simply a matter of integrating it
into the vehicle."

EAST BAY CAR CLUBS

Following is an alphabetical list of East Bay car clubs which runs as space allows. Please send any corrections, additions to the Auto Editor, Contra Costa Times, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Altamont Cruisers
PO Box 2144
Livermore, CA 94551
Attn: Ron and Kathy Sweet, 925-455-8232.
Web site: www.AltamontCruisers.com
Monthly show and shine at Foster's Freeze in Dublin last Saturday at 6 p.m. May through September (plus the third Wednesday in August). Monthly meeting second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Livermore Police Dept. Community Room, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. For owners of American cars, 20 years or older. Annual Nostalgia Day Car Show in Carnegie Park, Livermore, the fourth Sunday of September. Newsletter; membership fee, \$25/year.

Antique Automobile Club of America, California Region
President: Don Azevedo, 925-427-6624; Vice President: Tim Thibos, 925-925-2750; Secretary/Treasurer: Marc Henig, 707-428-0867. Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7 p.m. Call for meeting place. Car ownership not required; for those interested in automobiles 25 years and older. Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of automobiles and automotive history. Web site: www.aaca.org.

Bay Area COBRA Club
Tony Ripepl
300 South Ave.
Alamo, CA 94507
E-mail: Tony(Underscore)Ripepl@yahoo.com

Web site: www.clubcobra.com
For real enthusiasts of Cobras, coupes, roadsters, originals, replicas. Meetings: Every Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Athens Burger, 6999 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, northeast of the intersection of I-580 and I-680. No fees, no rules, just fun.

Bay Area Mustang Association
PO Box 20292
Castro Valley, CA 94546-8292
Web site: http://bama.4mg.com
President: Chuck Wilens, 510-481-8784

Meetings: 7 p.m. second Tuesday of month, except November, Castro Valley Women's Club, 18330 Redwood Road, all years and models of Mustangs welcome. BAMA is a regional member of Mustang Club of America and a member of the Nor-Cal Ford Car Club Council.

Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club (BATOC)

/Classic Thunderbird Club International
President: David Adams
925-855-1491
VP Information: 650-342-0852 or 415-479-7320
Meetings: Quarterly in Walnut Creek. Dedicated to the preservation of the classic 1955-'57 Thunderbirds. Oldest classic Thunderbird club in U.S.

Buick Club of America, California Capitol Chapter
Director: Mary Wright
PO Box 601461
Sacramento, CA 95860-1461
916-489-6631

Meetings monthly at 7:30 p.m. in Sacramento area
Cadillac Drivers Club
5825 Vista Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95824
Attn: Wray Tibbs

California Chrysler Products Club
PO Box 2660
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Information: Norm Frey, 510-886-0931

Meetings: Monthly, at members' homes. Membership: \$15/year.

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enjoyment of Chrysler product cars. Organized meets and tours. Monthly newsletter, the Silver Dome Gazette, with photos, wiring diagrams, specifications, classified ads free to members. Technical advisors help members with restoration projects and club library.

Classic Car Club of America, Northern California Region
Paul Williams, Regional Director
707-996-0579
Email: merkpac@aol.com; Web site: http://norcalcca.tripod.com/
The club seeks to further the restoration and preservation of distinctive motor cars produced in the period 1925-1948, to provide channels of communication for those interested in such cars, and to bring together those who own or admire these finest examples of automotive craftsmanship, both foreign and domestic, through various activities during the year including automobile tours.

CSRG (Classic Sports Racing Group)
PO Box 825
Danville, CA 94526
Dan Radowicz
925-736-2823
Monthly board meetings, one annual membership meeting. Four to six races per year.

Contemporary Historical Vehicle Association (CHVA)
Dale Galloway, promotion manager
2870 Eden Plains Road
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-625-3333
Open to all cars 1928 to 20 years old. Monthly tours in 24 regions. AEW magazine, nationwide emergency support group.

Delta Chapter, Ford F-100 Elites of Northern California
Contact: Lew Thompson
3354 Reliz Highland Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-937-7642 after 6 p.m.

Delta Miata Club
Contact: Betty Retzer, president
1684 Century Oaks Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-634-8765

e-mail: webmaster@deltamiata.com
Web site: www.deltamiata.com
Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Pee Wee Mul-don Restaurant, 8900 Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood.

Delta PT Cruisers
Contact: Bob Damico of Discovery Bay
925-634-0465 or e-mail: dl-tacz@earthlink.net
No membership dues or meetings; just fun cruises, tours, parades, shows, etc. for Chrysler PT Cruiser owners.

Diablo A's Model A Ford Club
Chapter of Model A Ford Club of America, Inc.
PO Box 6125
Concord, CA 94524
Contact: Alex Janke, 925-689-0859
Web site: www.diabloas.com

Meetings: Third Friday of the month (except December) at 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church Hall, 4000 Concord Blvd., Concord.

Diablo Four Wheelers
Concord, Calif.
Contact: Steve Mallo, vice president, 925-799-1063
Family four-wheeling since 1964. Primarily Jeeps, but all makes of 4WD accepted. Signatory to the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) in Sacramento.

Meetings first Tuesday of every month 7:30 p.m. at Round Table Pizzeria, Martinez, Pine Street exit off Highway 4. Guests are encouraged and welcome.

Diablo Valley Classics
PO Box 21514
Concord, CA 94521
Contact: Dave or Liz Fletcher, 925-

672-7956
For all 1955-1957 Chevrolet cars, trucks and Corvettes. Meetings are usually 7:30 p.m. the first Friday each month at the Contra Costa Water District building, 1331 Concord Ave.

Diablo Valley Corvette Club
PO Box 5824
Concord, CA 94524
Hotline: 925-672-8225
Web site: www.dvccorvettes.com
President: Pete Williams, 925-855-4728

Dedicated to promoting camaraderie among those who take pride in owning and maintaining their Corvette(s) by participating in various Corvette-related events in the San Francisco Bay Area. Meetings first Sunday of every month. See Web site for time and location.

Diablo Valley Mustang Association
President: John Neary
PO Box 21674
Concord, CA 94521
Web site: www.dvma.org

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month at Fuddrucker's, The Willows, Diamond Boulevard, Concord. Mustangs of all years; membership open to any Mustang enthusiast. The club publishes a monthly newsletter with a Car of the Month feature and sponsors an annual Show and Shine for Mustangs in May.

Diablo Valley Street Rods
PO Box 5898
Concord, CA 94524
Contact: Denise Johnsrud, 925-284-4528

Meetings: Monthly on fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Bakers Square Restaurant, 1680 Willow Pass Road, Concord. For those who have or are interested in pre-1949 modified American vehicles, commonly referred to as "Street Rods."

Discovery Bay Corvette Club
PO Box 1158
Discovery Bay, CA 94514
President: Kevin Auer, 925-595-1458
Web site: www.discoverybay-corvettes.org

Meetings: First Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Summerfest car show scheduled each September in Brentwood City Park.

Falcon Club of America, River City Chapter
President: Rosie Wilson
7701 Oakwood Lane,
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
916-725-4110

Ford T5 Owners
PO Box 669
Livermore, CA 94551-0669
Golden Gate Classic Thunderbird Club

Mike or Rita Press
124 Hollywood Court
Hercules, CA 94547
510-799-0556
e-mail: mjprgp@infonline.net
Meeting/outing: Second Saturday of the month. For those interested in 1955 through 1957 Thunderbirds. Members come from Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

Golden State Novas
PO Box 730248
San Jose, CA
Craig Swab, president
Greg Golding, vice president

Club meets first sat of each month at 1 p.m. at Round Table in Pleasanton. Motto: Nova people helping Nova people
Phone: 209-836-3879
Web site: www.sonic.net/bbdoncheersgeorge

Italian Car Registry
3305 Valley Vista Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3943
Attn: John deBoer

Jaguar Associate Group (JAG)
Attn: Roger Colton, Pres.
1041 Mountain View Blvd.

Walnut Creek, CA 94596-6120
925-937-2652
www.jag.org
JAG is a San Francisco Bay Area car club consisting of 300+ owners and individuals who appreciate Jaguar automobiles. The location of meetings changes each month. Newspaper: The JAGazette, Richard H. France, editor, 408-353-3770.

Kaiser Frazer Owners Club, El Dorado Region
Contact: Bill Hohlt, 925-945-6977 or e-mail, wghohlt@msn.com
Meets twice a year in May and October with bi-monthly newsletter.

Mercury Stray Cats Classic Cougar Automobile Club
President: Dennis Pierachini
PO Box 41
Fairfield, CA 94533-0004
e-mail: Info@classiccougar.com

Web site: www.classiccougar.com
Dedicated to preservation and enjoyment of classic Cougars, 1967-73.

Meetings: 2 p.m. second Saturday each month, Burger Road, Pleasant Hill. Monthly newsletter with technical tips, calendar of events, reports, flyers from related events, list of establishments for club discounts, want ads and more. Annual Cougars in Concord car show, fall club outing, technical workshops. Membership \$20/year.

MG Owners' Club (MGOC)
Correspondence Secretary: George Steneberg
9 Pomona Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-525-9125
e-mail: j2george@pacbell.net

Web site: http://home.pacbell.net/jensten
Meetings: 7 p.m. second Thursday each month, location varies. Activities include tours, rallies, tech sessions, shows, picnics, annual dinner, awards, monthly gatherings at pubs, meetings. Monthly newsletter The Octagon provides free ads for members, technical and helpful articles, humor, and events. Free expert advice on parts, repair, restoration. Vintage racing information available.

Military Vehicle Club of California/Military Vehicle Preservation Association
East Bay Contact: Lee Edwards, 925-447-9387 or 510-638-4140.

Monthly swap meets, two statewide rallies. Anyone with an interest in any age and nationality of military vehicles is welcome.
National association: PO Box 520378
Independence, MO 64052-0378
816-737-5111

Membership: \$30/year
Mini Owners of America, San Francisco Chapter
Information: Jon Becker, president
1915 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord
925-689-4005

Web site: www.MOASF.com
Newsletter: MINI Briefs
Editor: Chris Dunavan, 408-828-7224

e-mail: moasf@hypersprite.com
Dedicated to preservation and enjoyment of classic MINI including sedans, wagons, vans, pickups and mokes, as well as new MINI. Meetings, alternating between North and South Bay, are second Monday of month. MOASF is host and sponsor of the annual Hayward Field Meet, an all-British Car Show and Swap Meet at Cal State Hayward.

Mt. Diablo High Performance Chevy Club
4026 Burbank Drive
Concord, CA 94521
925-827-0851 after 7 p.m.

925-686-2624 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All years of Corvettes and Camaros. Meetings held every second Sunday of the month. Contact: Nancy Henderson.

Nor-Cal Galaxies/Mercury Car Club
PO Box 6682
Concord, CA 94524-1682
President: Bob Sheatsley, 925-455-9809; Neil Nutter, membership chairman, 925-825-2906. Dues: \$24/yr. per family. Ford Galaxies and Mercurys, 1959 to 1970.

Northern California Corvette Association
Sharon Evans, social director, 510-538-8716
Web site: www.classicar.com/clubs/nccca/nccahome.htm

Meetings First Tuesday every month 7:30 p.m. at Castro Valley Women's Club, 18330 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

Billed as America's Oldest Corvette Club, incorporated May 9, 1957. Events include autocross, drag races, tours, shows, charitable events. Annual event is Vette Magic, two-day race event early June.

Northern California Cruisers Classic Car Club
PO Box 20234
El Sobrante, CA 94802
President: John Loudon, 510-233-0721

Club consists of members who own 1972 and older, All-American, classic cars.
General meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. For more membership information, call 510-233-0721.

Northern California Deorean Motor Club
Web site: www.ncdmc.org
Ken Montgomery of Sacramento, president

Small club of 20 members who gather for tours, pictures, technical information and just fun. Meetings usually scheduled during spring and summer months. Events listed on Web site.

Northern California Kit Car Club
c/o Vern Hance, treasurer
3317 Ellersmere Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-938-1442

Web site: www.kitcar.com/nckcc
Organized to promote learning more about cars through sharing information among members. Annual September show. Monthly newsletter. Shows, parades, promotions.
Membership: \$2/month (\$24 each January)

Northern California Model T Ford Club, Inc.
Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America
4100 Alhambra Ave., PO Box 1696
Martinez, CA 94553

Meetings second Thursday of the month (except December) at Round Table Pizzeria in Virginia Hills Shopping Center, 6648 Alhambra Ave., Martinez. Dues: \$25.

Northern California Oldsmobile Club
Diane Kauffman, Treasurer/Membership
PO Box 5474
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1474
925-938-6071

Business meeting every other month (location varies) for owners or fanciers of Oldsmobiles. Social events in alternate months. Newsletter every other month.

Northern California Region of the Cadillac LaSalle Club, Inc.
President: Dave Ricci, 925-686-4531
Membership coordinator: Patti Blodgett
2043 Sierra Road, Unit 1, Concord, CA 94518

e-mail: dncpaddy@astound.net
Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of Cadillac and LaSalle automobiles. Ownership of one is not required, but membership in the National Cadillac LaSalle Club is. The club hosts social events and tours and publishes a newsletter.

Northern California Vintage derbird Club of America
Mike or Rita Press
124 Hollywood Court
Hercules, CA 94547
510-799-0556
e-mail: mjprgp@infonline.net

Monthly outings and various Northern California events.
Norcal-VTCA is an international club uniting Northern California owners and enthusiasts (1958-1968) of derbirds in a common joy and preserve their cars.

Peugeot Preservation Club
PO Box 4543
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925-685-6397

Offers parts and information.
Porsche Club of America, Northern California Region
Membership contact: John 34094 Canfield Drive, CA 94526

e-mail: jhchcr@tdi.com
National magazine: Peugeot newsletter: The Dragon
Many club events that are social and competition oriented. More about our events on Porsche at weekly meetings held in East Bay.

Rimracers
Information: 925-228-1414
Rimracers is a new-old tradition made up of drive veterans "traditional" of the '40s, '50s, '60s and cars are usually less than but licensed and drive street. Rimracer "meetings" form of weekend, all-day, odd cruises to places such as Cruz, Stinson Beach, and other locations inaccessible by public transit. Trailing of the frowned upon by Rimracer "It defeats the concept" founded Cameron D. S. torical scribe for the San Francisco Region of the Sports Car Club of America newsletter: The San Francisco Region R.C. Club of America.

R.J. Gordy, regional secretary
PO Box 966
Willows, CA 95688
tollfree: 1-888-995-7222
fax: 530-934-7275
e-mail: office@sfrscca.com

Since 1948, this is the organization for motor enthusiasts. SCCA sanctioned autocross, concours d'ally and road race throughout Northern California. Provides volunteer drivers for automotive events such as Guna Seca and Infineon S.F. Region owns The Raceway Park, a three-racing facility in Willows.

receive monthly regional publications. Annual membership fee is \$80.
Tri-Valley Classic Chevrolet Club
Meets 7:30 p.m. on the second day of the month at the Airport. '55-'57 Chevy Corvettes.

Vaca Valley Vettes
PO Box 145
Vacaville, CA 95686
E-mail: kimsvette@adn.com

We are a new all Contra Costa accepting new members car shows and fun.
Z Owners of Northern California
PO Box 934
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Events Hotline: 800-303-3030
Formed in 1972. Club Bowen <lgbowen@att.net> More than 35 members on the Datsun/Nissan website. Discounts, newsletter, and store. Dues \$30/year. Web site: www.zonc.org/zonc@sonic.net.

Mercedes GL450 SUV challenges the Cadillac Escalade and Lincoln Navigator

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

The big luxury sport utility vehicle is anything but dead, no matter what you might have heard.

Rising gasoline prices really don't have much effect on people who can afford high-end cars, and luxury SUV sales have been rising even as sales of large sport utilities in general have been dropping. So it's probably not much of a gamble for Mercedes-Benz to introduce yet another large SUV.

In this case, it's the all-new GL class, which in the U.S. market will be known as the GL450.

The "450" designation denotes the engine size — almost. It comes with a 4.6-liter V8 that cranks out 335 horsepower.

With seating for seven, the GL adds another rung on the Mercedes SUV ladder above the current M- and R-class models, but below the \$81,000-\$105,000 G-class.

Unlike the body-on-frame G-class model, though, the new GL has a unibody format, in which body and frame are one unit.

The GL is similar in concept to the midsize M-class sport utility

line, just larger — large enough to have seating for up to seven passengers. It even looks a lot like the M-class vehicles, and it shares many components with both the M-class and the new Mercedes sport-tourer, the R-class wagon that was introduced for 2006.

Designed to compete in the high-end U.S. sport utility market, but perhaps not the top, the GL will be positioned against such current models as the full-size Lincoln Navigator, Cadillac Escalade, Lexus LX 470 and Range Rover Sport. No prices have been announced, but the GL's competitors run into the \$60,000s.

Some good news about the GL is that it will be built at Mercedes' plant near Huntsville, Ala., along with the M- and R-class models.

The more Mercedes sold, the better the employment outlook for the Alabama plant. My take on the GL is that it was a necessity to give Mercedes a vehicle to compete against the full-size models that have sold well in the U.S. market — the Escalade and the Navigator — as well as give some competition to the Lexus LX 470 and the Range Rover lines.

In recent years, consumers who would choose a Mercedes usually wouldn't think of buying a Cadillac or Lincoln product, but without a full-size Mercedes SUV, the brand may have been losing some customers to the American luxury brands.

The Escalade, for sure, has become the darling of two moneyed U.S. consumer groups — professional athletes and entertainers.

The G-class, known as the G-Wagen, has been only a niche player in the U.S. market. Based on a 20-year-old design, using the truck-style body-on-frame arrangement, the G-Wagen is aimed more at affluent off-road aficionados than the kind of consumers who would buy an Escalade, Navigator or LX 470.

Although it's still a status symbol no matter how serious an off-road vehicle it might be, the G-Wagen nevertheless suffers from a lack of refinement that the majority of upscale buyers prefer.

The GL-class, however, takes SUV refinement to a new level for Mercedes.

It's 200 inches long, which is 2 1/2 inches shorter than a stan-

dard-length 2007 Escalade and 7 1/2 inches shorter than the 2006 Navigator. The current Escalade ESV, though, is 221.4 inches long.

Inside, the GL450 is quite roomy, however. Mercedes says that even third-row passengers have ample knee room, although I haven't had the opportunity to sit in the GL's third seat to judge for myself.

Because most of the time people use the third seat of their vans and SUVs for cargo, the GL450 comes with a power folding third seat that is divided so that either half or all of it can be folded away at the touch of a button to create a completely flat load floor behind the middle seat.

Although a V6 diesel model will be sold in Europe, that one is not going to be available in the United States, at least for now. The only model we'll get is the GL450, which goes on sale in April.

The engine is connected to a new seven-speed automatic transmission, and it will have such standard mechanical and safety features as antilock brakes with electronic brake-force distribution, downhill speed regulation, stabil-

ity control and uphill assist.

Power front seats, automatic climate control and a seriously off-road-capable four-wheel-drive system are part of the GL450's package.

Side-curtain air bags will be standard for all three rows of seating, and side air bags will be standard in the front seats and optional in the middle row.

The GL also provides a front body structure designed to lessen the impact on pedestrians and cyclists in the event of a collision, Mercedes says.

The four-wheel-drive is Mercedes' full-time 4Matic system that automatically adapts to any road conditions and has a two-speed transfer case to allow for low-range driving in extreme off-road situations.

For trailer-towing, the vehicle offers an electronic stabilization system that helps keep the trailer under control, even applying the brakes automatically if necessary.

Mercedes says the interior is offered with "man-made leather" seating trim.

The GL450 should be more readily available than the G-Wa-

gen, which is made in Europe and available only in limited quantities in the U.S. market.

Handcrafted at the Graz, Austria, the G-Wagen, Mercedes calls a "mod," off-road with a climb-stump-pulling personality and a climb grade of up to 30 degrees.

The base G500, with its official name for the German market, is the G-Class. In the United States, comes with a 190-horsepower V8 engine, and the line G55 AMG comes with a 300-horsepower V8 engine.

Its superior four-wheel-drive system has three lockers — front, center and rear — letting it go just about anywhere it'll fit.

It comes fully loaded with factory options available in the U.S. market.

Standard amenities include leather interior with stitching, trim, a wood-and-leather wheel, automatic climate control, power windows/door locks, cruise control, 10-way (front and rear), 10-way adjustable front seats with GPS navigation system and audio system with a CD changer and 18-inch wheels.

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SELL YOUR CAR, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE THROUGH THE CLASSIFIEDS IN HILLS NEWSPAPERS

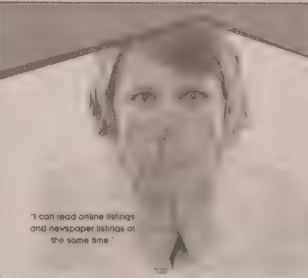
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Point Alameda Apartments	Alameda	(800) 767-1789	X	www.apartments.com/pointalameda	971 - 1420 X X X
Alicante Apartments	Aliso Viejo	(866) 854-0151	X	www.apartments.com/alicantealiso Viejo	1210 - 1725 X X X
Lakeshore Apartments	Antioch	(866) 389-8879	X	www.apartments.com/dlakeshore	950 - 1390 X
Crestview Pines	Antioch	(866) 240-9017	X	www.apartments.com/crestviewpines	925 - 1395 X X X
Twin Creeks Apartments	Antioch	(866) 309-2333	X	www.apartments.com/twincreeks	985 - 1285 X X
Oakwood Village Apartment	Antioch	(888) 297-5953	X	www.apartments.com/oakwoodca	695 - 1195 X X X
French Village	Belmont	(866) 343-0126	X	www.apartments.com/franvillage	1145 - 1695 X X X
Sterling Heights Apt	Berkeley	(866) 288-4356	X	www.apartments.com/sterlingheightsapart	1095 - 1275 X X X
Library Gardens Apartment	Berkeley	(866) 703-4332	X	www.apartments.com/librarygardens	1350 - 2700 X
Renaissance Villas	Berkeley	(888) 665-0074	X	www.apartments.com/renaissancevillas	1350 - 1895
Brentwood Village	Brentwood	(800) 305-5601	X	www.apartments.com/brentwoodca	795 - 985 X X
Arbor Ridge Apartments	Brentwood	(800) 494-9554	X	www.apartments.com/arborridgebrentwood	1350-2520 X X X
Town Centre Commons Apt	Brentwood	(866) 287-8837	X	www.apartments.com/towncentrecommns	885 - 1425 X X X
Northpark	Burlingame	(866) 685-1667	X	www.apartments.com/northparkburlingame	875 - 1680 X X X
Westwood Apartments	Carmichael	(866) 830-3202	X	www.apartments.com/westwoodca	700 - 1249 X X X
Barcelons	Carmichael	(866) 345-5111	X	www.apartments.com/barcelonacarmichael	535 - 795 X
Terrace at Fair Oaks	Carmichael	(866) 246-0950	X	www.apartments.com/terracefairoaks	625 - 1050
Eden Terrace	Castro Valley	(866) 265-1117	X	www.apartments.com/edenterrace	1095 - 1150 X
Cedars/Cedars North Apts	Castro Valley	(866) 813-4618	X	www.apartments.com/cedarscn	850 - 1445 X X
Continental Apartments	Castro Valley	(866) 212-4115	X	www.apartments.com/continentalapts	850 - 1100 X X
Richland Gardens Apts	Ceres	(866) 276-2691	X	www.apartments.com/richlandgardens	749 - 779 X
Eaton Village	Chico	(800) 310-6629	X	www.apartments.com/eatonvillage	840 - 1225 X X X
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El Monte Apartments	Concord	(866) 206-0103	X	www.apartments.com/elmonte	995 - 1100 X X
Palm Lake Apartments	Concord	(888) 835-1879	X	www.apartments.com/palmlakeconcord	800 - 1295 X X X
Diablo View Apartments	Concord	(866) 308-4114	X	www.apartments.com/diabloview	850 - 1050 X
Pine Meadows Apartments	Concord	(866) 468-9558	X	www.apartments.com/pine-meadows	800 - 1325 X X
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Sterling Cove	Concord	(888) 909-0908	X	www.apartments.com/sterlingcove	795 - 1650 X X X
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Shell Martinez Refinery
ATTN: Human Resources
P.O. Box 711
Martinez, CA 94553

Applicants may also apply in person at the Shell Martinez Refinery Clubhouse on February 8th & 9th, between 5pm to 7pm. Applicants must also be available to attend test sessions to be scheduled at a later date.

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EMPLOYMENT

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Reporting to our Prod. Mgr. assist w/ the managing Mariani brand to higher sales & profitability. Other responsibilities include:

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- Maintain specifications for supported products.
- Manage creation and content of sales collateral.
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- Manage channel trade events.
- Manage special promotional programs within retail markets.

B.S. or B.A. required. Minimum three years experience in marketing arena. Must be proficient in MS Office products with preferred experience in syndicated data software, such as IRI or AC Nielsen.

Mariani Packing Company offers competitive EOE M/F/D/V. Please send resume and salary requirements via email to tgarcia@mariani.com or mail to 500 Crocker Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688, or fax to: (707) 452-2920

MARKETING

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Basic Chemical Solutions, a dynamic growing company, has an opening for a Regional Marketing Specialist in Redwood City, CA. In this position, you will maintain and grow a specific product line by actively managing key business relationships, such as suppliers, customers, BCS sales and BCS executive mgmt. Recs B5/BA degree and exp marketing or selling chemicals or related products in Excel, Word and PowerPoint are a must. Technical sales support exp in the chemical waste water treatment industry desired.

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MARKETING

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MECHANIC

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Sunstate is closed on weekends and we offer an excellent benefits package, great wages and a fun work environment. Applications can be filled out in person M-F 7a-5p at 9717 Pacheco Blvd, Pacheco or fax resume to our website at www.sunstateequip.com

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Must be avail. Sat. Some exp. helpful, sal. negot., resume & ref's req. Call 925.251.2121. Ask for Jackie Web ID CC0201171044

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Previously OBGYN. Must be avail. Sat. Some exp. helpful, sal. negot., resume & ref's req. Call 925.251.2121. Ask for Jackie Web ID CC0201171044

MEDICAL SUPERVISOR

Full time pos. for high school graduate with hands on, train, evaluate, discipline employees. To 2020/hr. Oak. Fax 925.587.0767. email: inahere@accell.net

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MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST/ASST. Antioch, E.T.

Must be avail. Sat. Some exp. helpful, sal. negot., resume & ref's req. Call 925.251.2121. Ask for Jackie Web ID CC0201171044

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- Previous electrical or chemical plant experience preferred
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www.valero.com

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Operator, Instrument Mechanic, Electrician, Machinist

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To apply, fax or e-mail your resume to:

FAX: 866 836-7200

ATTN: Chevron Richmond

E-mailed resumes **MUST** be provided in MS Word format!

E-mail to: richmond@certified.com

Subject: Chevron Richmond

Chevron is one of the largest Bay Area employers, offering challenging and rewarding opportunities.

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The refinery is committed to hiring top caliber applicants. Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Possess a valid California driver's license
- Be legally able to work in the United States

The following experience and/or education is preferred but not required:

- Previous industrial experience (i.e., refining, chemical, manufacturing)
- A 2-year degree or certification in one or more of the following disciplines:
 - ✓ Sciences (chemistry, physics, etc.)
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 - ✓ Business Administration
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Successful applicants must pass pre-employment tests and a physical examination including a drug screen.

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1



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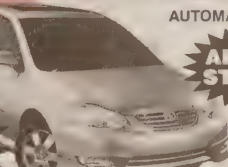
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Lifestyle

Friday, February 10, 2006

Publication of Hills Newspapers/East Bay Daily News

Advertising Supplement

Winning dishes from world-class cheeses

FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Winter's world-class athletes won't be the only ones showing their medals. European-style cheeses from America's Dairyland, have won international acclaim and continue to take the prize for taste in households across the country.

Don't miss a viewing of the ski racing or ice skating competitions, consider tying in your menu of the culinary history of the world's countries competing in the sports. A Gruyère and onion cheese is a terrific heartside snack for a perfect "10." The nutty flavor of this full-bodied, Swiss-style cheese stands up to the blend of onions and spices in the tart.

For casual dining, take a basic cheese sandwich from good to great when you make it a polenta sandwich topped with mushroom sauce. The earthy, buttery Italian-style Wisconsin fontina cheese adds a dramatic "wow" to the polenta.

For style points to light and airy dishes by using a dill-flavored Wisconsin Havarti accompanied by a smoky salmon salad.

Wisconsin cheese makers are passionate about incorporating traditional methods into their award-winning varieties. Today, many third-generation cheese makers carry on the tradition of passing down skills and knowledge to the next generation — taking no shortcuts and accepting nothing less than excellence.

If you are watching the most athletes compete this year to try becoming a win-

ner yourself by logging onto www.WisDairy.com and playing the Spin to Win game. The game runs through April 2.

WISCONSIN POLENTA FONTINA "PANINIS" WITH MUSHROOM SAUCE

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

1/3 cup minced shallots or onion

2 (4-ounce) packages sliced mixed exotic mushrooms or 1 (8-ounce) package sliced crimini or button mushrooms (4 cups)

1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried)

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Wisconsin fontina cheese, divided

1/4 cup chopped well-drained sun-dried tomatoes in oil

1 (16-ounce) tube polenta or flavored polenta, cut into 16 slices

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in small skillet over medium heat. Add shallots; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, thyme, salt and pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes or until mushrooms are tender.

Meanwhile, combine 1/2 cup cheese and tomatoes. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon butter on large nonstick griddle or in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat until melted and bubbly. Arrange 8 slices polenta on griddle; top with cheese mixture and remaining 8 slices polenta. Cook 3 minutes. Carefully turn over; continue cooking 3 minutes or until hot and cheese is melted.

Transfer paninis to 4 serving plates; top with mushroom sauce and remaining 1/2 cup cheese.

Makes 4 servings.

SMOKED SALMON SALAD WITH WISCONSIN DILL HAVARTI POPOVERS:

Popovers:

2 large eggs
1 cup 2 percent or whole milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded Wisconsin Dill Havarti cheese (or regular Wisconsin Havarti tossed with 1 teaspoon chopped fresh dill or 1/4 teaspoon dried)

Sauce:

1 (5-ounce) package spring greens or mixed salad greens (8 cups packed greens)

1 cup thinly sliced peeled cucumber

1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded Wisconsin Dill Havarti cheese

1/4 cup bottled vinaigrette or Italian salad dressing

4 ounces thinly sliced smoked salmon, cut crosswise into strips

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill (or 1 teaspoon dried)

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Whisk eggs in medium bowl; whisk in milk. Add flour and salt; whisk well. (Some small lumps of flour will remain.) Whisk in butter.

Coat eight 6-ounce custard cups or ramekins with cooking spray; dust lightly with flour. (Note: Popovers may be made in muffin tins with 4-ounce cups. Coat 10 of the cups of a 12-cup muffin pan with cooking spray. Fill and bake as directed with custard cups.) Pour batter into cups filling 1/3 full. Divide cheese evenly over batter. Pour remaining batter over cheese filling cups 2/3 full. Place cups on baking sheet; bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees; continue baking 20 to 25 minutes longer until puffed and deep golden brown (do not open oven during baking time). Immediately remove popovers from baking cups to serving plates.

While popovers are baking, combine greens, cucumber, cheese

and dressing in large bowl. Toss well and transfer to 4 serving plates. Top salads with salmon and dill. Serve with warm popovers.

Makes 4 servings.

WISCONSIN GRUYÈRE AND ONION TART

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

3 large onions, thinly sliced (about 6 cups)

1 refrigerated unbaked pie crust

2 cups (8 ounces) grated Wisconsin Gruyère cheese

1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

1/2 teaspoon salt



WISCONSIN SALMON SALAD with Wisconsin Dill Havarti Popovers.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper

2 eggs, at room temperature

1/2 cup half-and-half

Heat oven to 425 degrees. In large skillet, heat butter over medium heat. Cook onions, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes or until very soft and golden.

Meanwhile, prepare pie crust according to package directions. Gently press crust into bottom and up sides of 11-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Combine cheese, flour, thyme, salt, nutmeg and pepper in separate bowl, then sprinkle

mixture over crust.

Transfer cooked onions to tart pan; arrange to make an even layer on top of cheese mixture. In small bowl, whisk together eggs and half-and-half; pour evenly over mixture.

Place tart on cookie sheet, and bake at 425 degrees 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375 degrees; bake 30 minutes longer, or until filling puffs and is just set. Cool slightly. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes 10 servings.

All materials courtesy of Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper

2 eggs, at room temperature

1/2 cup half-and-half

Heat oven to 425 degrees. In large skillet, heat butter over medium heat. Cook onions, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes or until very soft and golden.

Meanwhile, prepare pie crust according to package directions. Gently press crust into bottom and up sides of 11-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Combine cheese, flour, thyme, salt, nutmeg and pepper in separate bowl, then sprinkle

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Makes 10 servings.

All materials courtesy of Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.



WISCONSIN GRUYÈRE and onion tart.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE



WISCONSIN POLENTA FONTINA "Paninis" with mushroom sauce.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

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KATRINA PARRIS FLOWERS

NEW YORK — Botanical decor artist Katrina Parris predicts that the flower-giving gender barrier will be broken by women with an eye for style and a talent for being unforgettable: These women are giving their men flowers. And the men will love the blooms: According to a recent survey from the Society of American Florists, more than two-thirds of men say they would love to receive flowers.

"Keep in mind that a guy will not drop hints that he wants flowers on Valentine's Day — or any other day," Katrina Parris says. "Women need to take the initiative." Parris, recently featured in Oprah Winfrey's O Magazine, is the creative owner behind the foliage at Katrina Parris Flowers, a New York City floral design shop.

Parris offers women these three insider tips toward flower-empowerment:

■ Choose the right arrangement for a new relationship. "It's not so much the act of sending flowers to a man as it is your choice of what kind of flowers you send," she said. Start by sending him a flowering plant like an orchid or a flowering cactus — something that is more gender neutral.

■ Make sure he gets the message. "It's all in the message that accompanies the flowers and the creative thoughts put into the arrangements," Parris said. "Write a handwritten note from your heart, even at the risk of sounding corny."

■ Avoid pastel colors or arrangements that are too busy. "Choose a masculine monochromatic color palette," Parris adds. "For example, combine green and red or even green and white. Any good florist can choose an appropriate arrangement for you."



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SOOTHEZE

Taking the mystery out of that jargon

■ When your remodeler seems to be speaking another language

Have you ever listened to professionals in the same business speaking with each other? Sometimes it sounds like another language. It's even worse when a professional speaks with you and uses the buzz words of his or her industry. Half the time you might not understand what is being discussed.

Those of us in the remodeling industry can be just as guilty as any other professionals. Today I'll give you a few examples of construction terms that would have different meaning if used in other settings. After reading this, when you're in a conversation with a remodeling professional and he says, "We need a pony wall over there" you'll know that he's not talking about a small horse.

Forms: Remodeling involves a lot of paperwork, so this must mean all the paperwork that must be read and signed, right? Not when the construction is underway. Forms are the temporary assemblies built to receive concrete for such things as foundations. The forms are typically made of wood. The forms must be built strong enough to manage the incredible weight of wet concrete while being easy to disassemble so the wood used for the forms can then be used to help construct the floors and walls of the house.

Studs: What's the first thing that comes to mind? Well, in construction there might be some handsome guys on a site, sometimes wearing little but a toolbelt! However, that is not what is being re-



PAUL WINANS
From the Ground Up

ferred to, although many remodeling carpenters do think they are studs. What's being referred to are upright pieces of lumber, usually 2x4s, used to frame walls, usually spaced 16 inches apart.

Plates: You might be thinking this is what my food is served on! In construction these are the horizontal pieces in a frame wall, typically the same dimensions as the stud width and thickness. There are sill plates, which are on top of a foundation, sole plates, which are the bottom horizontal members of a frame wall, and top plates, which are the top horizontal members of a frame wall.

Header: This is someone taking a fall, right? Not in the construction world! A header is the framing member at the top of an opening for a window, door or pass-through. The width and thickness of a header is determined by size of the opening it must span. These days headers are sometimes made of engineered timbers, which are manufactured composites of wood fibers and glue, or wood veneers and glue.

Receptacle: You might think this is where garbage goes. However, when your electrician says "receptacle" he's talking about an ordinary electrical outlet. Today it also means a place where you can tie into cabling for computers and for phones.

Sleeper: No, this isn't your teenager at 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning. This is a piece of wood laid down on a concrete slab to support flooring. As with all wood that comes in contact with concrete it must be either redwood or pressure treated fir to reduce the likelihood of dry rot or termites investing it.

Trim: If you like to be looking just so this is what you would get at your local barber on a regular basis. Boy, you look spiffy! In construction this refers to interior moldings, such as door casings and moldings, which occur where the wall finish is interrupted by the floor, ceiling and openings for doors and windows, among other instances. The design of the trim has a significant impact on how your home looks, much like your haircut has for the way you look.

Remodeling: Many people hear this word and think of several things. A job that never ends, continuous problems, lots of arguing, cost escalation and so on are some of the things that come to mind.

For the remodeling company you want to work with it means a professionally planned and managed job that solves the identified problems for a fixed price in a finite amount of time. When you are considering a remodeling company make sure to check the company's references, asking how the company accomplished all those items mentioned in the previous sentence.

Hopefully these few examples will be of some use to you in the future. Oh, and a pony wall? That's a wall that's half the normal height.

Paul Winans can be reached at 510-653-7288 or at winconinc.com.

A romantic Valentine's Day dinner for two

MURPHY O'BRIEN

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- An award-winning bottle of Chardonnay from Meridian.
- A pack of votive candles to light through out the house.
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— Henry Drummond, British clergyman

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Zebra plant is dropping leaves and attracting gnats

Q My Zebra plant keeps losing all its leaves. Instead of being lush and leafy, it's has long stems with a few leaves at the top. I'm also having a very challenging time trying to control a continuing infestation of gnats. None of the recommended controls seem to work. I'm constantly shooing them away or fishing them out of my coffee. Are the gnats causing the leaf drop and if so, what must I do to solve this?

A You have two separate problems with a common denominator, moisture. The Zebra plant is a member of the Calathea family. They all require moisture, ample humidity and partial shade or indirect light. Excess moisture from watering too frequently or allowing standing water to remain in a saucer is the primary causes of the constant leaf drop. There are many ways to water indoor plants. I prefer to do so at the kitchen sink. Here, I'd fill the container with water to the rim several times. Once all the water has drained out, I'd return the plant to its normal location. Watering in this fashion moistens the entire root ball and allows the excess water to escape. I'd repeat this again in seven to 14 days depending on the plant variety and the temperature.

I certainly understand your frustration with the gnats. They are often referred to as fungus gnats although they have nothing to do with a fungus. They are insects that thrive and breed in a moist, rich, organic soil. Changing the environment at the soil surface will prevent future infestations. It's pretty easy to do, you remove about one-third of an inch of soil and replace it with small decorative or aquarium rock. It is now very difficult for the gnats to perpetuate themselves in this sterile and very dry layer. You won't kill the adult gnats that are flying



BUZZ BERTOLERO
The Dirt Gardener

around, but you do prevent future generations.

Q I've just removed a clump of junipers from my front yard and I was hoping to transplant a 10-year old Persimmon tree in their place. Will the soil need any conditioning?

A Moving a 10-year old Persimmon tree is not an easy task. The problem for most gardeners is the size of the root ball. It should be 24 to 36 inches square. The next problem is moving the root ball. It will be heavy and will take several people to move it.

Now to your question, you should condition only the new hole were the Persimmon is to be replanted. The new hole should be eight inches deeper and twice as wide as the root ball you dig up. The native soil is amended with organic matter or homemade compost at a 50-50 ratio. While now is the season to transplant Persimmons and many other plants, there is always the risk that it will not survive. An alternative might be to plant a new Persimmon tree in this spot, leaving the original tree where it is.

Buzz Bertolero is executive vice president of Navlet's Garden Centers and a California Certified Nursery Professional. Web site: www.dirtgardener.com. Write him at dirtgardener@aol.com or to 360 Civic Drive Ste. 'D', Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Easy faucet installation tips can help update kitchen or bath

AFR

Changing a faucet is one of the best ways to update a kitchen or bath without the time, expense and inconvenience of a full-scale renovation. Faucets serve as a focal point in the kitchen and bath, and stylish new fixtures with matching accessories can give these important rooms a refreshing new appearance.

Many people who recognize the benefits of upgrading their faucets are intimidated by the thought of tackling the task on their own. But they don't need to be, says Christine Rasche, associate product marketing manager for Peerless. "With a little forethought and preparation, installing a stylish new faucet can be relatively simple."

While many consumers want to infuse their kitchens and baths with more style, they don't want to break the bank doing so. Manufacturers such as Peerless now offer a full line of stylish products at an affordable price point. These products are easy to maintain, and offer consumers the style and dependability they want out of their kitchen or bathroom makeover.

Follow these simple steps for faucet installation, and you can have a new look in your kitchen and/or bath in no time:

- Allow plenty of time to install your new faucet. Don't rush yourself.
- Before you begin, assemble the appropriate tools listed on the installation sheet included in your faucet box.
- Keep in mind that removing your old faucet may be the toughest part of the job. Spraying a little penetrating oil on the old tail-piece mounting nuts and supply-tube coupling nuts 24 hours in advance can make that task much easier.



CHANGING A FAUCET is one of the best ways to update a kitchen or bath without the expense and inconvenience of a full-scale renovation.

- Shut off the water supplies from the valves located under your sink, then turn on the faucet to release pressure.
- Lay a towel in the sink during your installation to avoid scratches and to avoid dropping anything down the drain.
- Disconnect the tubes attached to the water supply valves. You may need to use a tube cutter if the water supply pipes were soldered.

- Loosen and remove the old faucet and all faucet parts from the sink. You will likely need to use a basin wrench plus a little extra muscle power.
- Thoroughly clean the sink and counter area where the existing faucet was removed before inserting your new faucet.
- Follow the step-by-step instructions provided with your new faucet to properly install the product.

After the faucet is installed, don't forget to remove the old faucet and turn on the hot and cold water supplies for one minute to flush the water lines. This will remove any debris that could cause damage to internal parts. For more help with your new faucet, call Peerless at 345-3358 or visit Peerless' website, www.faucetco.com. — Courtesy of AF

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HEALTHIER THAN chocolate and longer-lasting than roses, Rollerblade's newest women's skate, the Activa 4D, is a gift to consider for your sweetheart.



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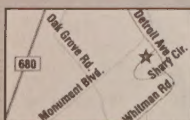


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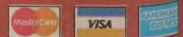
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